"Gremlins"

HONG KONG

AN OUTDOOR MARKETPLACE

Crowded. Filled with Oriental and British merchants. You can buy anything here. Electronics. Furniture. Food. Anything.

RAND PELTZER

walks through the crowd. An American businessman. He wears a tasteful grey suit. He's thin, with distinguished good looks and thick brown hair. He's 56 years old.

Rand looks around, fascinated by the vast array of people and merchandise. He stops at a booth. A tiny ORIENTAL WOMAN stands behind the counter. Rand gives her a polite smile.

RAND
Hi. I'm from out of town...on business from the U.S.

The woman nods and smiles.

AN ORIENTAL MAN

passes by. He is very old. Deep wrinkles. Long white hair. Ragged clothes. A rotted smile. Overhearing Rand, the man stops to eavesdrop.

RAND
(explaining to Oriental woman)
I'm looking for a present...for my son.

The woman nods. She searches through her wares. She holds up a basketball. Rand shakes his head.

RAND
He's not really involved in Sports...

The woman puts away the basketball. She picks up a Sony "Walkman". Rand again shakes his head.

RAND
No. I want something unusual...something he can't get at home...something different...

The woman searches for something else.

A HAND

reaches out and grabs Rand's arm. Startled, he turns.

The Oriental man stands before him. He stares into Rand's eyes.

ORIENTAL MAN
I can help you.

He leads Rand away from the booth.

ORIENTAL MAN
I offer something very different. Very unusual.

Rand is puzzled. The Oriental leads him to a doorway.

ORIENTAL MAN
Follow me.

He opens the door, motioning for Rand to follow. Rand pauses, skeptical.

ORIENTAL MAN
Come. Take a look. It will cost you nothing.
(a beat)
You won't be disappointed.

The Oriental enters. Rand shrugs and follows.

INSIDE

Rand follows the man up a narrow, dark set of stairs. At the top, they enter a room.

INT. ROOM

Dark. No windows. No furniture. Filled with cardboard boxes and wooden crates.

Rand crinkles his nose. It smells bad in here.

The Oriental flips on a dim light bulb. He leads the nervous, aprehensive Rand to a dark corner of the room.

The Oriental picks up a small, metal box. A HIGH PITCHED GIGGLE echoes from inside the box.

Rand is very puzzled.

The Oriental rests the box on a stack of crates. He opens the box.

A TINY CREATURE is inside.

The animal is eleven inches tall and stands upright on two legs. It has two arms, with small four-fingered hands. Its body is covered with fluffy brown fur. The piercing eyes are big, sad. Its ears are long and pointed. A tiny black nose sits above a wide mouth, with small, square teeth.

The creature is smiling. It lets out a giggle.

Rand is delighted and surprised. He's never seen anything like this. The animal is more charming than a Disney character.

The Oriental claps his hands.

The creature leaps from the box, onto Rand's shoulder. The animal licks Rand's cheek. He laughs, amused by the creature.

The Oriental claps his hands again.

The creature hops back into the box. It stares at Rand with those cute green eyes.

RAND
(to the Oriental)
What is it?

ORIENTAL MAN
It is called "Mogwai".
(a beat)
A very rare and intelligent animal. I found it in the fields near my home. It will obey all orders. It learns fast.

The Oriental looks at Mogwai and claps his hands.

ORIENTAL MAN
(Chinese; English subtitles)
Food.

Mogwai leaps to the ground. It scurries across the floor, to a wooden crate.

Mogwai removes a raw tuna from the crate. It tears off a chunk of the fish and carries it to the Oriental man. He takes the fish. Mogwai hops back into the box.

Rand shakes his head. Amazed by the animal.

The Oriental takes a bite from the raw fish. Juice runs down his chin. He smiles at Rand.

ORIENTAL MAN
And if you are ever in need of a song...

He claps his hands to the creature.

ORIENTAL MAN
(Chinese; English subtitles)
Music.

Mogwai begins to hum, in an unearthly falsetto. It's beautiful.

Rand watches with wide eyes. He feels like a child again.

RAND
How much?

ORIENTAL MAN
One hundred American Dollars. Cash.

Rand removes five twenties from his wallet. He gives them to the man.

The Oriental smiles and claps his hands. Mogwai jumps onto Rand's shoulders. Rand pets it. Mogwai emits a cute giggle.

ORIENTAL MAN
It never sleeps. It will eat anything... but prefers raw meat.
(pause)
It must always be kept indoors during the day. It lives in shadow. It hates bright light. Direct sunlight will kill it.

Rand nods. He takes Mogwai from his shoulder and puts it into the box. Rand puts the box under his arm. The Oriental smiles.

ORIENTAL MAN
Your son will enjoy his new friend.

Rand smiles and exits. The Oriental takes a bite from his raw fish.

CUT TO:

INT. HONG KONG AIRPORT

Rand is on the pay telephone. His baggage rests beside him.

Mogwai is inside of a small plastic pet box. The creature's bright eyes shine from inside.

RAND
(into the phone)
Yes, Fred. The Tai-Chan account is definite. MmmHmm. My plane leaves in twenty minutes. See you in Pennsylvania.

He hangs up. He picks up his bags and walks to the check-in counter.

THE CHECK-IN GIRL

tags Mogwai's box and puts it on the conveyer belt.

Rand watches the box disappear through the baggage chute.

CHECK-IN GIRL
Don't worry, sir. Your pet will be safe.

Rand smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY

The jet flies through the clouds.

INT. AIRPLANE

Rand is eating his airline dinner. AN ORIENTAL STEWARDESS walks up and refills his coffee. He looks at her.

RAND
Are you familiar with the word "Mogwai"?

She nods.

RAND
What does it mean?

STEWARDESS
Devil.

She moves to the next passenger

Rand stares. Surprised. Confused.

DISSOLVE TO:

A GREEN ROAD SIGN:

"WELCOME TO KINGSTON FALLS, PENNSYLVANIA. POPULATION 6,122"

CREDITS BEGIN OVER VARIOUS IMAGES OF THIS SMALL TOWN.

One week before Christmas. It's snowing hard.

A man hangs Christmas lights outside of his home. His young son helps.

Children ice skate along a large, frozen lake.

A woman trudges through the snow, to her mailbox. A down parka is over her pajamas.

Kingston's business district. Chilly gas station attendants pump gas into cars.

A Pharmacy owner hangs "Merry Christmas" (in sparkling gold letters) in his store window.

Telephone line workers share hot coffee from a thermos.

The Union Savings and Trust Bank. Two teenagers push a woman's car from a ditch.

CREDITS END. CAMERA DOLLIES TO THE BANK DOORS. WE GO INSIDE.

Crowded. Several people stand in line.

BILLY PELTZER

a bank teller, writes out a receipt for a customer.

Billy is 26 years old. His sturdy build and good looks are buried beneath wire rimmed glasses, slicked dirty-blonde hair, a red sweater vest, a loose fitting checkered shirt, baggy corduroys and worn loafers.

Finishing the transaction with his customer, Billy looks to the line of waiting people.

BILLY
Next.

MRS. DEAGLE

an elderly woman, walks to Billy's window. She's a real prude. Tight lips. Heavy make-up. Bleached hair. Cheap fur coat. She hands Billy a personal check.

TRACY ALLEN

another teller, works beside Billy. Tracy is pretty. Big brown eyes. A sexy smile. Long dark hair. Perfect figure. 25 years old.

Tracy counts out some cash to a customer. She's trying to concentrate, to keep her mind on work. But it's difficult when

GARY LUCIA

the bank security guard, is trying to make her laugh. He stands by the bank entrance, making funny faces at Tracy.

Gary is 30 years old. Former high school jock. Dark, thick hair. Deep brown eyes. Muscular. A strong, handsome face.

Meanwhile, Billy gives the check back to Mrs. Deagle.

BILLY
I can't cash this, M'am. Your last check hasn't cleared.

MRS. DEAGLE
Don't you recognize me?

BILLY
No, M'am. I'm sorry..

MRS. DEAGLE
(loud, so everyone can hear)
My name is Mrs. Julia Deagle! My husband manages the Sparkle Market! We've been banking here for sixteen years!

BILLY
That's very nice, M'am. But your check hasn't cleared and...

MRS. DEAGLE
That's the problem with this world. It's a mess because of people like you!

BILLY
It's not my fault your check didn't clear, M'am.

MRS. DEAGLE
Don't get smart with me, young man.

BILLY
I wasn't getting smart, I was...

MRS. DEAGLE
(shouting, looking around)
Where's the president? I want to see the bank president!

Billy rubs his eyes. Tense. Embarassed.

Everyone watches the scene. Tracy. Gary. The customers.

ROLAND FRESCO

the bank's Vice President, walks over to Billy and Mrs. Deagle. Roland is tall, slendor with thin grey hair and a pencil thin moustache. Friendliness and courtesy are his job. He smiles at Mrs. Deagle.

ROLAND
What seems to be the problem, M'am?

MRS. DEAGLE
My name is Mrs. Julia Deagle. This young teller is being very rude! I demand that you fire him!

Roland looks at Billy. Billy rolls his eyes. Roland smiles.

ROLAND
(comforting)
Now, Mrs. Deagle...I'm sure this isn't that serious. I'm sure an apology would fix things right up. Wouldn't it?

The woman shrugs. Roland turns to Billy.

ROLAND
Apologize to the woman, Billy.

Billy leans to Roland.

BILLY
(angry whisper)
I didn't do anything wrong.

ROLAND
(doesn't care, the customer comes first)
Just apologize.

Roland leans back and smiles at Mrs. Deagle.

Billy looks at her. He doesn't want to do this.

Everyone in the bank is watching him, waiting for him to take a stand.

Billy sighs. He needs his job.

BILLY
(forcing himself)
I'm sorry, Mrs. Deagle.

She nods and smiles. Roland puts his hand on the woman's shoulder.

ROLAND
Come back to my desk, Mrs. Deagle. I'll personally take care of your banking problems.

Roland walks back to his office with Mrs. Deagle.

Gary chuckles. Tracy goes back to work.

Billy just sits. Angry. Humiliated. He calls the next customer.

BILLY
Next.

CUT TO:

INT. BANK - LATER

Billy puts on his brown winter coat and green scarf.

He picks up his dog eared copy of "The Once And Future King". He walks to the bank lobby.

TRACY

stands in the lobby, putting on her coat. Billy moves to help her.

BILLY
Let me.

He helps her on with the coat.

BILLY
You look very pretty today.

TRACY
(flattered)
Thanks, Billy.

BILLY
I mean...not that you don't look pretty every day...But you look especially pretty today.

TRACY
(chuckles)
You're cute.

Gary walks up. He puts his arm through Tracy's.

GARY
Let's go. I'm hungry.
(notices Billy)
Hey, Peltzer...Why didn't you stand up to that old bag, today?

BILLY
Didn't want to lose my job.

GARY
I think you weaseled out.

Billy shrugs. Embarassed.

Gary notices the book. He takes it from Billy's hand.

GARY
What's this?

BILLY
It's a book. You read it.

Billy exchanges a smile with Tracy. Gary isn't amused.

GARY
I know that, asshole. I meant what's it about?

BILLY
King Arthur...Sir Lancelot...Knights of the Round Table...Dragons...

GARY
Aren't you a little old for that kinda' junk?

BILLY
(shrugs)
Beats T.V.

GARY
(gives Billy the book)
I'll take "Monday Night Football" over this crap any day.
(takes Tracy's arm)
C'mon. Let's go.

Tracy gives a wave to Billy. She and Gary walk away.

Billy watches. He draws an imaginary sword from his side. He lifts the sword and lunges forward. At Gary.

CUT TO:

INT. MCDONALD'S

Billy sits at a table. Alone. He's reading his book. He eats, but his wide eyes never leave the page. He's fascinated by the story. Like a child. He gets to a funny section. He laughs.

Gary and Tracy sit with another couple. Across the room from Billy.

Gary notices Billy. Gary nudges the others.

GARY
What a nut. Laughin' to himself. That's the kind of guy who'll shoot a president.

TRACY
(defensive)
I don't see anything wrong with him. I'm sure he's very intelligent.

GARY
Yeah, and those are the guys who always crack. The real smart guys.
(pause)
He's gotta be a psycho. 26 years old, still lives with his parents. Doesn't have a girlfriend. He's always alone. Real weirdo.

The others agree. Tracy doesn't. She likes Billy.

Billy continues to read, totally caught up in his book. Totally caught up in his fantasy.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BILLY'S FORD PINTO - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Billy drives home from work. He moves slow. The snow still falls. The roads are icy.

CAR RADIO (V.O.)
...And the snow keeps coming, folks. Looks like we're gonna have a White Christmas. Another three inches is expected tonight...

Billy looks out of his side window and sees

PETE FOUNTANE

walking home from school. Pete is 16 years old. A chunky, pleasant baby faced kid. With his bright orange down jacket, Pete resembles a tiny snowman.

Suddenly, Pete slips on the ice. Bam. Right on his ass. His school books scatter over the ground.

Billy stops the car. He gets out and hurries to Pete.

BILLY
Pete...You okay?

Pete nods. Billy helps him up. Pete brushes himself off. Billy is amused by the boy.

BILLY
You want a ride home?

PETE
Thanks. That'd be nice.

Billy helps Pete pick up his schoolbooks.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Billy drives, while trying to tell a story to Pete.

BILLY
(energetic, enthusiastic)
Lancelot raises Excalibur and...Wham! He knocks the Black Knight down! Then with another swing...Wham! He finishes him off!

PETE
(impressed by Billy's storytelling)
Wow...

Billy digs into his pocket and gives Pete the copy of "Once And Future King".

BILLY
Here. You can borrow it.

Pete takes the book.

PETE
Hey, Billy...You know so much about Vikings and stuff...You should write one of these stories yourself.

BILLY
(proud smile)
I am.

PETE
Really?

BILLY
(proud)
"Savage Hearts Of The Round Table". A Trilogy Of Honor, Adventure and Romance by William C. Peltzer.

PETE
Sounds great. When can I read it?

BILLY
(chuckles)
I've only got about 70 pages done...But as soon as it's published, you'll get one of the first copies. Specially autographed by the author.

Pete smiles. Billy makes a turn. He pulls into the parking lot of

DOUGAL'S ANTIQUES

A huge, three story home, with an antique shop set up on the first floor.

Billy and Pete get out of the car and enter the store.

DORRY DOUGAL

the 64 year old storekeeper, stands behind the counter. Dorry is husky, bald on top, with thick patches of red hair on his temples. A huge, red moustache sits beneath his bulbous nose. His arms are thick, hairy. A strong Irishman.

Dorry notices Billy enter.

DORRY
Good afternoon to you, Billy.

BILLY
Hi, Dorry.
(eyes light)
Is it ready yet?

Dorry smiles. He reaches to a shelf behind the counter. He removes a long object, wrapped in a piece of green cloth. He rests it on the counter.

Billy watches with wide eyes. Pete is curious.

Dorry slowly unwraps the object. Inside the cloth, is a long silver sword, with a gleaming blade and an engraved steel holster. Pete is impressed.

DORRY
(to Pete)
It's an authentic replica of an Eleventh Century sword.

Billy's eyes examine every inch of the sword. It's beautiful.

DORRY
I got most of the rust off...But there were a couple spots that wouldn't budge.

Billy runs his finger along the blade.

DORRY
Careful. It's sharp.

A big smile covers Billy's face. He's in love with the sword.

BILLY
What do I owe you?

DORRY
Two hundred. You can pay me twenty a week.

Billy pulls a twenty from his wallet and pays Dorry. Billy carefully wraps the sword and puts it under his arm.

BILLY
Thanks, Dorry.

DORRY
My pleasure, son.

Billy and Pete exit the store.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET

The suburbs. Rows of houses. All very similiar. Two stories. Aluminum siding. One car garage.

All are decorated for Christmas. Some are simple and sweet. Others are ornate and flashy.

EXT. FOUNTANE HOME

Billy's car pulls into the driveway. He drops Pete off. Pete thanks him and Billy drives off.

THE PELTZER HOME

blends in with the others. But it's a little nicer, better kept. A row of colored lights is draped across the snowy shrubbery.

Billy's Pinto pulls into the drive. He gets out, sword under his arm. He enters the house.

INT. FRONT HALLWAY

A small hallway, leading to a stairway.

BARNEY

a friendly Irish Setter, greets Billy. He pets the dog and hangs his coat in the hall closet.

INT. KITCHEN

LYNN PELTZER

Billy's Mother. 53 years old. Slightly heavy. Well dressed. Styled brown hair. A pretty woman.

She hears Billy enter. She quickly pops a valium from a small pill bottle. She calls to her son.

LYNN
Billy? Is that you honey?

BILLY

sighs. He hates to be called "honey".

BILLY
Yeah, Mom.

LYNN (O.S.)
Dinner will be ready in ten minutes.

BILLY
Okay.

He hurries upstairs with the sword in his hand.

INT. BILLY'S ROOM

Furnished with a single bed, two chairs, a desk and dresser. A manual Smith-Corona rests on the desk top. A full sized mirror is fastened to the closet. A few plants hang in the window.

The walls are covered with Medieval drawings, a poster of St. George fighting the dragon, Frazzeta paintings of warriors, etc. A miniature set of armor rests on the dresser's cabinet.

Billy enters. He rests the sword on his bed. He unwraps it. He picks up the sword.

He turns to the mirror and poses with the sword. He holds it at a few different angles, trying to decide which looks best for him.

He takes a few swings with the sword.

He stops and smiles to himself. A real warrior.

CUT TO:

DINING ROOM

Billy sits at the table, eating dinner with Lynn.

LYNN
How was work?

BILLY
Okay.

LYNN
Have you asked that Tracy girl out yet?

BILLY
(annoyed)
C'mon, Mom...

LYNN
I was just curious.

BILLY
Yeah, well it's none of your business.

Nervous, Lynn pops a valium with her wine.

LYNN
(offended)
I guess it's none of my business that your clothes are washed and ironed, or that you have a hot meal on the table...

BILLY
No. It isn't. I'm old enough to take care of that stuff myself. I'm old enough to get a place of my own.

LYNN
Don't start that again. Your Father's coming home tonight.

BILLY
Good. I think we should talk about it.

LYNN
It'll put him in a bad mood.

BILLY
No, it'll put <u>you</u> in a bad mood.

Lynn and Billy exchange a glare. They look down at their food.

A few silent, uncomfortable moments pass.

Lynn looks back to Billy. She smiles. Time for the tender approach. She touches his hand.

LYNN
Billy, honey...

BILLY
(moves his hand from hers)
Stop calling me "honey".

She smiles and tries again.

LYNN
Dad and I just don't want you to have to struggle like we did. We want to help, until you can support yourself as a writer.

BILLY
But it's gonna take me another year to finish my novel...and what if it doesn't get published?

LYNN
It'll get published.

BILLY
But what if it doesn't? Are you gonna take care of me until I'm old and grey, working on my 25th unpublished novel?...

LYNN
If it takes that long, yes.

BILLY
(frustrated)
Don't you understand?...I've got to leave now! I've got to try and make it on my own now!

Before Lynn can reply, A VOICE INTERRUPTS.

RAND (O.S.)
Is anybody home?

Lynn stands and whispers to Billy.

LYNN
Please, let's forget about this. Just for tonight. Okay?

Billy pauses. Finally, he gives in and nods.

Lynn stands. She pops another valium and exits to greet her husband. We hear them exchange an excited "hello". They kiss and laugh, glad to be in each other's arms.

Billy just sits. Burning.

INT. FRONT HALLWAY

Rand hugs his wife. Barney is jumping up and down, tugging at Rand's coat.

Suitcases rest on the floor. Beside them, is Mogwai's plastic case.

Billy enters. Rand sees him.

RAND
(smiles)
Billy...

Billy walks to his Father. They embrace.

BILLY
(happy to see him)
Hi, Dad.

They hold each other for a second. Lynn closes the front door. Rand picks up Mogwai's case. Lynn turns to her husband.

LYNN
Hungry? There's plenty of food...

RAND
(takes Lynn's hand)
Not now. I've got a surprise for both of you. Come on.

He leads them into the living room. Lynn and Billy exchange a puzzled glance. They follow Rand.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Rand dims the lights. He motions for Billy and Lynn to sit on the sofa. They do. Barney sits on Billy's lap.

Rand sits in front of them, on a leather easy-chair. He rests Mogwai's case on his lap. He opens the case.

Mogwai leaps out, onto the coffee table.

Lynn and Billy are startled. They stare at the creature in wonderment.

Barney hates it. He growls at Mogwai.

Rand lights a cigarette. He turns to Mogwai and claps his hands. The creature picks up an ash tray and carries it to Rand. Mogwai hops onto Rand's lap.

Lynn and Billy are amazed.

BILLY
(staring at Mogwai)
What is it? A monkey? A rat?...

RAND
Your new pet.

BILLY
(uncertain)
Oh, yeah?...

Mogwai starts to sing, humming in that unearthly falsetto.

BILLY
What's that?

RAND
He's singing.

BILLY
Sounds kind of creepy.

Barney still growls.

RAND
Barney! Be a good dog and go upstairs!

Barney reluctantly hops off Billy's lap and exits.

Lynn stares at Mogwai.

LYNN
I think he's just darling.

RAND
He's called "Mogwai".

BILLY
Mog-what?

RAND
Mogwai.

Rand holds the creature out to Billy.

RAND
Hold him.

BILLY
(inching back)
Maybe later.

RAND
C'mon. He won't bite.

Billy forces himself to take the creature. Mogwai nestles close to Billy. Rand smiles at his son.

RAND
He likes you.

Billy looks nauseous. Lynn stands.

LYNN
You two look so cute together. I have to take a picture.

Lynn walks to a nearby drawer, opens it and removes a Kodak instamatic.

Mogwai is on Billy's shoulder, licking his cheek. Billy hates it.

RAND
I want you to take good care of him.

Lynn focuses the camera on Billy and Mogwai.

LYNN
Okay...smile.

Billy forces a smile. Mogwai still licks his cheek.

Lynn snaps the picture. Flash!

Mogwai lets out a high scream. Frightened of the bright light, Mogwai jumps back, accidentally scratching Billy's cheek.

BILLY
Little bastard.

Mogwai scurries back to Rand. He pets the creature, comforting it.

RAND
Settle down, Billy...There's no reason to get upset. The little fellow's scared. He hates bright light.

Billy shrugs. He wipes his fingers along the scratch on his face. He looks at them.

There's blood on his fingertips.

Billy looks at Mogwai.

The creature looks at Billy. It giggles.

CUT TO:

INT. BILLY'S ROOM - LATER

Billy sits at his desk, working on his novel. His typing is fast, intense. A small desk lamp lights his working area.

Mogwai watches Billy from the darkness of the book shelves. Above Billy. The creature begins to sing.

Billy tries to ignore Mogwai's singing. No good. It gets on his nerves. Billy slams his hand on the desk top. He glares at the creature.

BILLY
Shut up.

Mogwai stops singing. Billy goes back to his writing.

Mogwai hops from the shelf. Staying out of the direct light, the creature moves across the desk top and cuddles up to Billy's arm. He jumps back.

BILLY
Get off of me.

Mogwai just looks at him.

BILLY
Get off my desk.

Billy shines the bright desk light into the creature's eyes. Mogwai screams and jumps off the desk, to the floor. Billy looks down at the creature.

BILLY
Stay down there.

Billy goes back to his work.

Mogwai is bored. The creature leaps up to the bed. It sees the sword. Mogwai lifts one end, examining it. It's too heavy. The sword slips off the bed and falls to the floor.

Billy turns.

Mogwai takes a step back. Guilty. Frightened.

Billy picks up the sword. The handle is chipped.

BILLY
(angry, to Mogwai)
You stupid little...

Billy raises the sword over Mogwai. He's ready to kill the tiny creature.

Mogwai looks up at Billy. The creature is shivering. It is frightened. Its big, green eyes are watery.

Billy suddenly feels sympathetic. He lowers the sword and picks up the creature.

BILLY
(tender)
I'm sorry...just try to be more careful.

Billy holds Mogwai to his chest. He's petting it, comforting it.

CUT TO:

INT. BILLY'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Billy sleeps. The room is totally dark.

CAMERA PANS to another area of the room.

TWO GREEN EYES

burn in the darkness. They watch Billy.

FADE OUT.

INT. BILLY'S CAR - NEXT MORNING

Outside, the snowing has stopped. Billy drives to work.

CAR RADIO (V.O.)
It looks like the snow has stopped for awhile. But don't put away those ear muffs, more flurries are scheduled for tonight...

CUT TO:

INT. BANK PARKING LOT

Billy's car pulls into the lot. He gets out.

Tracy is getting out of her car. Billy walks up to her.

BILLY
Starting work early today?

TRACY
Oh, hi. Well, I thought the roads would be icy.

BILLY
We've got a half hour before work. Wanna go have a cup of coffee?

She pauses and smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Tracy and Billy sit at a table, sipping hot coffee.

BILLY
...and if I sell the novel, I'll be able to quit the bank.

Tracy smiles. Dreaming.

TRACY
I'd love to quit. I'd run straight to the airport and buy a one way ticket to Paris.

BILLY
Why Paris?

TRACY
I've only seen it in movies and T.V....But it seems like it's got everything that this town doesn't...Museums...great restaurants... Beautiful artworks and architecture...
(embarassed)
Listen to me, talking like I've been there 10 times. I shouldn't get so carried away. It's only a dream.

BILLY
Hey...Don't give up on your dreams. They just might come true.

Tracy shrugs and takes a sip of coffee.

BILLY
Can I ask you a personal question?
(Tracy nods)
What is it with you and Gary? Is he your boyfriend?

TRACY
He thinks he is.

BILLY
Do you think he is?

TRACY
No. I think of him more as a friend. But he thinks of me as a lot more.

BILLY
So there's a possibility...I mean...I just might have a chance with you?

TRACY
(smiles)
Don't give up on your dreams. They just might come true.

They both laugh.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL

GARY

Standing across the street, looking into the coffee shop window. He watches Billy and Tracy. An angry, jealous look fills Gary's eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. BILLY'S ROOM - THAT EVENING

Dimly lit with Billy's small desk lamp. Billy waters his plants with a spray bottle.

Mogwai's case sits on the bed. The creature is inside.

Billy finishes his watering. He sits at his desk. He takes a drink from a glass of milk and snacks from a plate of brownies. He proofreads some pages from his novel.

PETE (O.S.)
Hello? Is anybody home?

BILLY
(shouts)
In here, Pete.

Pete enters. Billy holds the tray of brownies to him.

BILLY
Want some?

PETE
I'm s'posed to be on a diet...

He grabs a brownie. He notices Mogwai's case.

PETE
What's in there?

Pete walks over and opens the case. Mogwai hops out, onto the bed. The creature giggles. Pete is taken aback.

PETE
What is it?

BILLY
A present from my Dad.

Pete picks up the creature and pets it. Pete likes Mogwai.

PETE
It's neat.

Billy shrugs. Mogwai sees the brownies. The creature hops from Pete's hands, onto the desk. Mogwai grabs a brownie and starts to eat.

PETE
Hey, Billy...You think I might be able to borrow it? Just for a night?

BILLY
I dunno, Pete...

PETE
C'mon...My Mom will never know. I'll hide it under my bed.

Pete reaches down to pick up Mogwai. But his hand clumsily knocks over the water bottle.

A few drops of water splash Mogwai.

The creature arches its back and lets out a high pitched scream.

Billy is surprised. Pete takes a step back. Scared.

Mogwai tenses up. The spots on its body that were hit with water begin to bubble...expand...

Billy can't believe his eyes.

Mogwai writhes in pain. The spots on its body expand more, getting bigger, bigger...ready to explode.

Billy and Pete stare. Fascinated.

The spots burst.

FOUR NEW CREATURES

pop out. Clones of Mogwai.

The spots on Mogwai's body bond together and disappear, as if they were never there.

There are now five identical creatures on the desk top.

Billy and Pete share a shocked glance.

Billy grabs the water bottle. He has to be certain that he wasn't halucinating. He splashes a little more water on one of the new creatures,

The process begins again. The creature's body contorts. A few lumps form. The lumps expand until...they burst.

THREE MORE CREATURES ARE BORN.

Billy tries to make sense out of it all.

EIGHT CREATURES stand on the desk top, examining their new world.

Billy picks up his glass of milk. He splashes some milk on one of the creatures.

Nothing happens.

BILLY
They must only multiply with plain tap water.

PETE
(amazed)
Wow...this is better than "Star Trek".

Pete looks at Billy.

PETE
Now can I have one?

BILLY
(still dazed)
Huh? Well, yeah...I guess so.

Pete grabs one of the creatures, taking it from the group.

It cries out. In a high, piercing scream.

The other creatures leap at Pete. They grab the creature and bring it back to their group.

PETE
(scared)
Maybe I won't take one.

The creatures have moved to the brownies. They rip the brownies to pieces, devouring them. They're giggling.

Billy and Pete stare in shock.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Rand sits in a chair, opposite Billy. The 8 creatures climb all over Rand. Playfully tugging at his hair and clothes, licking his face. Rand loves the adorable little things.

Billy has a worried look on his face.

Barney, the dog, sits in a corner of the room. He glares at the creatures. Jealous that they're getting all the attention.

RAND
(to Billy)
What are you so worried about?

BILLY
Dad...We don't know anything about these things.

RAND
We know they're cute. We know they're intelligent. And now we know they multiply by water.

BILLY
Yeah, but isn't that pretty weird? I mean, if I throw water on Barney over there, we're not gonna get ten copies.

A creature licks Rand's ear. He chuckles.

RAND
All I know, is that I've got a million dollars sitting in my lap.

BILLY
Huh?

RAND
I'm going to market these things.

BILLY
(hates the idea)
Oh, Christ. C'mon, Dad...that's...

RAND
Just imagine the excitment when word gets out. Everyone will want a Mogwai of their very own.

BILLY
Don't you think we should have them checked out first? Just to make sure...

RAND
No. If we want to make a big profit, we have to move fast. I have some investors coming over to the house on Thursday.
(a beat)
Who knows?...Mogwai could replace dog as man's best friend.

Barney growls from his corner.

Rand continues to play with the creatures. Billy watches. Skeptical.

CUT TO:

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT - THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON

It's snowing. Very hard. The bank has just closed.

Billy hurries to his car. Gary walks up. Billy turns to him.

BILLY
Oh, hi Gary. Look, I'm kind of in a hurry.

Gary grabs Billy by the collar and throws him against the car.

GARY
Listen, Peltzer...she's my girlfriend. Keep your hands off. Understand?

Billy nods. Gary lets him go. He turns and walks away.

Billy straightens his clothes. He glares at Gary.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Students hurry from the school, anxious to get home.

Billy's car pulls into the parking lot. He gets out. Pete waits in front of the school. Billy walks up to him. They enter the school.

INT. SCHOOL - BIOLOGY LAB

The last of the students exits the classroom.

ROY HANSON

the Biology teacher, stands at the sink. He's washing out some used glass jars and basins. Roy is 35 years old. Tall. Thin. Black. Good looking.

Pete knocks on the door. Billy enters with him. Roy turns.

ROY
Hey, Pete...what's up?

PETE
Mr. Hanson...this is my friend Billy. He wants to talk to you about somethin'.

ROY
(friendly smile)
Well, sure...
(shakes Billy's hand)
I'm Roy Hanson. What can I do for you?

BILLY
Well, you're the closest thing this town's got to a scientist...and I need some information about an animal.

ROY
What kind of animal?

BILLY
That's what I'm trying to figure out.

CUT TO:

INT. BILLY'S ROOM - LATER

The curtains are drawn. The lights are dim. The eight creatures are on the desk top. Giggling. Humming in falsetto.

Billy enters with Roy and Pete. Roy stares at the creatures. He is shocked. Delighted.

ROY
I've never seen anything like this.

Billy grabs the water bottle.

BILLY
Watch this.

Billy squeezes a drop of water on one creature. Mogwai lets out a scream. A lump appears on the creature's back. The lump gets bigger...bigger...bigger...

Roy watches with wide eyes.

Suddenly, another creature bursts from Mogwai's body.

NINE IDENTICAL CREATURES now stand on the desk top.

ROY
(startled, shaken)
Holy shit.

He remains speechless for a few moments. He looks at Billy.

ROY
May I stay for a while?...Run a few tests?...

BILLY
(nods, checks his watch)
My parents won't be home until 7:00. You've got three hours.

Roy takes off his coat and opens his black leather case. Billy exits with Pete.

CUT TO:

T.V. SCREEN

"How The Grinch Stole Christmas" plays.

BILLY AND PETE

sit on the sofa, watching the T.V. Roy enters. He sits across from Billy.

ROY
I discovered some interesting things...
(CONT'D)

ROY
(CONT'D)
The creatures are drawn to water. If they sense water nearby...they'll go to it.
(a beat)
Also, unless they're hunting for food or water...they hate to be separated. I tried to move one from the others. They cried out. Clawing. Screeching.

PETE
Yeah...that's what happened when I tried to take one.

ROY
If one is separated. The others will follow.

BILLY
Anything else?

ROY
They can't multiply by water if their environment temperature is below 25 degrees.
(a beat)
It's amazing. They have no biological link with any other species of animal...in the whole world.

Billy gives an uncertain nod.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BILLY'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Silent. Dark. Billy sleeps.

Distant sounds are heard. Animal-like noises. Gurgling. Slurping. Chewing.

Billy wakes. He sits up in bed. The sounds continue. He looks around the room.

The creatures are gone.

Billy notices his room door. Open.

He gets out of bed. He looks at his sword, hanging above the bed. He takes the sword from the wall. He walks out of the room.

HALLWAY

Billy walks. Sword in hand.

The noises get louder. Crisper. Clearer.

Nervous, Billy descends the dark stairs. He arrives at the bottom. He stops to listen.

The sounds are coming from the living room.

LIVING ROOM

Billy enters. He looks to the floor. Beneath the Christmas tree.

The creature surround Barney.

They have killed the dog. Ripped it to pieces.

Billy tries to move. He's frozen.

The creatures are eating the dog.

They look up at Billy.

Their bright green eyes are fiery.

Blood covers their mouths.

They smile.

They giggle.

Billy screams.

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP:

A CANVAS MAIL BAG. The bag moves. Squirms. Shakes. The creatures are inside.

Rand carries the bag up a ladder that leads into the attic.

Lynn and Billy stand a few feet away, in the hallway.

Rand lets the creatures loose in the attic. He quickly latches the attic's trap door, securing it with a padlock. He climbs down the ladder.

RAND
This should keep them out, for the rest of the night...

INT. ATTIC

Dark. The Mogwai cluster around the trap door. They scratch at the door. They want out.

RAND (O.S.)
Tomorrow we'll take them out in the sun...

INT. HALLWAY

RAND
...and finish them off.

Lynn nods. Rand looks at Billy.

RAND
I'm sorry, son. I never expected to...

BILLY
Forget it.

Billy stares coldly at his Father. Embarassed, Rand looks away.

RAND
We should all get back to sleep.

Rand puts his arm around Lynn. They walk to their bedroom.

Billy looks up at the attic door.

The creatures' scratching is heard.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PELTZER HOUSE - MORNING

The sun rises behind the house. Snow is falling.

INT. ATTIC

The trap door opens. Billy and Rand climb inside. They both carry flashlights.

They shine the lights through the attic, looking for the creatures. They see nothing.

Billy spots something. He nudges his Father.

There are NINE INDIVIDUAL PODS, stuck to various places on the floor. The pods are 16 inches long, 12 inches in diameter. They are wrapped with a vein-like wire and covered with a thick, syrupy glaze.

RAND
What in the hell?...

Billy picks up a broomstick and pokes one of the things. Won't budge. Hard as a rock.

BILLY
Damn things are stuck to the floor.

Rand picks up a baseball bat. He raises it over his head and swings down hard. Against the pod.

The bat snaps in two.

The pod is unblemished.

Rand rubs his stinging hands. Billy and Rand just look at each other. Puzzled.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LATER THAT EVENING

Roy Hanson sits with Billy and Rand. Lynn pours them coffee. Roy has just examined the pods.

ROY
They appear to be in a larva stage.

RAND
Like a butterfly?

ROY
Exactly. Those things in the attic are cocoons. Inside, the creatures are going through some sort of change...a metamorphosis.

BILLY
Why did they attack my dog?

ROY
Simple. They're animals. They were hungry. Aside from water, food is their main concern.

RAND
How long until they hatch?

ROY
A week...a month...I really can't say.

BILLY
(stands)
I'm not waiting around to find out.

ROY
Billy, don't be hasty...You've stumbled onto a new life form. What comes out of those cocoons could be a major scientific discovery...

BILLY
Screw science. I want them destroyed.

RAND
Billy...Maybe Mr. Hanson's got a point...

BILLY
(stern, bitter)
Dad, they killed Barney. Or have you already forgotten?

Rand just looks at his son. Lynn pops a valium in the backround.

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP:

Red hot light. The flame of a torch.

CAMERA PANS UP TO

RAND. He's holding the gas torch, aiming it at the cocoon. Billy stands beside him. They're inside the attic.

Rand shuts off the torch. He touches the cocoon. It appears unharmed.

RAND
Not even warm.
(shakes his head, surprised)
They're indestructible.

BILLY
Now what do we do?

RAND
I get back from Seatle on Wednesday. I'll call some construction people. They'll come in next week and cut these things out of the floor.

BILLY
I don't think we should wait. Let's do it ourselves.

RAND
No. It's late. I've got an early plane to catch.
(pause)
The attic door is locked. There are no windows up here. Nothing can get in or out.

Rand pats Billy on the back.

RAND
Son, you've got to stop worrying.

CLOSE-UP:

BILLY.

A doubtful, uncertain expression on his face.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE FOLLOWING DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE TOWN

Snow comes down. Fast and hard.

Cars swerve on the road.

Little children build snowmen.

Trucks plow the roads.

An elderly man snow-blows his driveway.

RADIO (V.O.)
Heavier snowfalls are scheduled for this evening. Storm and blizzard warnings are in effect. So if you don't have to go out, please stay indoors.

CUT TO:

EXT. BANK

a sign hangs on the door:

OPEN LATE FOR HOLIDAYS, SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS HOURS: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

INSIDE

A wall clock reads 5:25. Billy counts out money to a customer. Tracy works beside him.

Finished with the customer, Billy looks to the line of waiting people.

BILLY
Next.

MRS. DEAGLE

walks to Billy's window.

BILLY
(forced smile)
Hello, Mrs. Deagle. How are you this afternoon?

MRS. DEAGLE
(sour)
Horrible. My arthritis acts up when it snows.
(glares at Billy)
I see they still haven't fired you.

Billy shrugs, trying to remain calm.

CUT TO:

INT. PELTZER HOME

Lynn removes freshly baked Santa Claus sugar cookies from the Microwave oven.

INT. ATTIC

Small lumps have formed over all of the cocoons. Slowly, the lumps rise up and down. Bubbling. Breathing. Coming to life.

CUT TO:

INT. BANK

Mrs. Deagle is screaming at Billy.

MRS. DEAGLE
Do not try and tell me what to do, young man!

BILLY
(trying to stay calm)
M'am...I'm only suggesting that you see a bank officer to...

MRS. DEAGLE
I want to speak to Mr. Fresco!
(loudly calling out)
Mr. Fresco!...Mr. Fresco!...

Roland Fresco, the Vice President, gets up from his desk. He walks over to Mrs. Deagle and Billy.

Everyone in the bank is watching.

Billy bites hs bottom lip, holding in his anger.

CUT TO:

INT. PELTZER HOME - KITCHEN

Lynn decorates the cookies. She adds white icing to Santa's beard. She dips her butterknife into the large blender that has made the icing.

INT. ATTIC

The cocoons are bubbling furiously, as if they were being baked in an oven.

Suddenly, a crack appears on one. Then another. And another. Cracks begin to cover all the cocoons.

Green smoke seeps from the thin openings. A slow soft hiss is heard.

They're hatching.

CUT TO:

INT. BANK

Roland stands beside Billy. Mrs. Deagle patiently waits.

ROLAND
(whispers to Billy)
Apologize to the woman, Billy.

BILLY
(honest)
But, sir...I didn't do anything wrong. Really.

ROLAND
Apologize. Now.

Billy turns to the woman.

Everyone in the bank is watching. Especially Tracy.

BILLY
(forcing himself)
Mrs. Deagle, I...

He pauses. He looks at Mrs. Deagle. Her face is sour, angry. He tries again.

BILLY
Mrs. Deagle, I...
(he can't do it. He lets out his honest feelings)
I think you're an ugly old fart and I hope you fall down on the ice and break your fucking neck!

Mrs. Deagle is shocked. The other customers hide their laughter.

Gary smiles. Tracy is proud.

ROLAND
(boiling)
Peltzer, you are fired! Do you understand me?!? You're fired!

Billy smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. PELTZER ATTIC

Green smoke has filled the room. The cocoons quiver. Shake. Each one is covered with cracks.

A THREE FINGERED BLACK CLAW

suddenly breaks out of one cocoon. It clutches at the air.

ANOTHER CLAW

breaks through the shell of another cocoon.

They all begin to hatch. Claws emerge from each one, reaching for the air.

INT. KITCHEN

Lynn slowly arranges the finished cookies on a tray.

A LOUD RATTLING NOISE ECHOES FROM UPSTAIRS.

Lynn stops to listen.

CUT TO:

EXT. ATTIC DOOR

The door rattles. The lock shakes. The creatures want out.

LYNN

slowly moves to the kitchen doorway. She listens.

THE ATTIC DOOR

The wood surrounding the lock begins to splinter. It finally snaps.

The door pops open. The lock falls to the floor. A loud thump.

LYNN

jumps at the noise. Scared, she runs to the kitchen phone.

INT. BANK

Billy puts on his coat, preparing to leave.

In the backround, Mr. Fresco consoles Mrs. Deagle.

Tracy walks up to Billy.

TRACY
Billy...I thought you were great.

He smiles. Gary watches the two of them.

ANOTHER TELLER
(calling to Billy)
Billy...You have a phone call.

Billy hurries to the phone. He answers.

BILLY
Yeah?...

LYNN

stands in the kitchen, tightly holding the phone receiver.

LYNN
Billy...those things in the attic...They're alive...I hear noises upstairs...

BILLY

gets scared. His face goes white.

BILLY
Mom...stay downstairs. I'll be right home.

He drops the phone and runs out of the bank.

Gary exchanges a puzzled glance with Tracy.

CUT TO:

LYNN

standing in the kitchen. Frightened. She downs two valiums from her bottle.

LOUD THUMPS. RATTLING. VARIOUS OTHER NOISES ECHO FROM THE ATTIC.

Lynn exits the kitchen and slowly walks upstairs.

CUT TO:

BILLY

Nervous. Sweating. Behind the wheel of his car. He tries to drive fast, but the heavy snowfall and icy roads prevent it.

Outside, the sun is going down.

CUT TO:

LYNN

She's arrived at the top of the stairs. It's dark up here. She looks to the end of the hallway.

The attic door is open.

Lynn gets a chill. She slowly walks to the door.

CUT TO:

BILLY

still driving. He tries to pass a slow truck. He hits an icy spot.

THE CAR

swerves and spins off the road. It lands in a ditch. The engine stops.

BILLY

tries to start it. Nothing happens. It's stalled.

BILLY
No...Not now...

He tries again. No good. It's dead. Frustrated, Billy slams his fist on the steering wheel.

CUT TO:

LYNN

standing below the open attic door. She tightly clutches her valium bottle. She looks up.

Nothing but darkness.

Lynn pops another valium. She climbs the ladder, into the attic.

CUT TO:

TRACKING SHOT

Billy. He runs home through the snow.

It's dusk. People have begun to turn on their Christmas lights.

Billy runs harder. Faster. His house comes into view. At the end of the block.

CUT TO:

INT. ATTIC

Lynn pokes her head inside, looking around.

Everything looks fine. Calm.

She sighs. Relieved.

SUDDENLY

Something leaps out and grabs Lynn by the throat.

Acreature. We can't see it clearly. It moves too fast. It is hidden by the shadows.

Other dark figures come at Lynn. More creatures. They want their share of the food.

Lynn watches is horror as the creatures surround her head. She screams.

EXT. ATTIC

Lynn's screams die with the snap of her neck.

Her body jumps and twists. Her feet kick as she is pulled up into the attic.

There are a few seconds of silence.

The we hear the sounds.

Chewing. Swallowing. Giggling.

CUT TO:

BILLY

sprints down his driveway.

He arrives at the porch of his home.

He opens the front door.

INSIDE

Dark. Silent.

Billy calls out before entering.

BILLY
Mom?...

Scattered giggling echoes from inside.

Billy flips on the front hall light.

A few tiny shadows scatter. They dash into other rooms. Afraid of the light.

Billy slowly enters. He's scared.

He looks to the top of the stairs.

BILLY
Mom?...

More giggling.

Shaking. Nervous. Billy climbs the stairs.

At the top, he quickly flips on the bright hall light.

Something darts up into the darkness of the attic. Escaping the light.

Billy spots the open attic door.

He walks beneath it.

He looks up into the dark attic.

BILLY
(shaking voice)
Mom?...

AN OBJECT

is thrown out of the attic. It lands at Billy's feet.

He jumps back. He looks at the object.

LYNN'S VALIUM BOTTLE.

Stained with her blood.

Billy picks it up.

A giggle from the attic.

Frightened, Billy takes a few steps back. He dashes into his room.

INSIDE

Billy grabs the sword off his wall.

He walks back into the hallway.

HALLWAY

Billy stands several feet from the open attic door.

He clutches the sword.

He takes a breath and flips out the hall light.

Darkness.

Billy waits. A few seconds pass.

A CREATURE

leaps from the attic, into the hallway.

Billy jumps back.

Mogwai snarls at him.

Mogwai has changed.

It stands two feet tall.

The brown fur is gone, replaced by rock hard, rippled armor.

The arms and legs are muscular, covered with the same armor. The paws have been replaced by claws. The fingernails are sharp.

The tail is long and pointed. Reptilian. It thrashes back and forth.

Sharp white horns have replaced the ears.

The green eyes are larger. They bulge. Evil. Angry.

A huge mouth distorts the face with its wide grin. The countless teeth are long and sharp. Gleaming white. Fresh blood drips from them.

The giggle remains, undercut with a hungry animalistic growl.

THE CREATURE

leaps at Billy.

Billy raises his sword and swings. He hits the creature in mid-air.

Mogwai falls to the ground. Thick green blood pours from a deep wound in its chest.

Billy stabs the creature. Mogwai dies with a long hiss.

Billy looks back to the attic.

Sword extended, he rushes to the ladder and climbs into the attic.

INSIDE

Billy sees Lynn's body. She lies on the floor. Dead. Face down. In a pool of blood.

Billy walks to her.

Lynn is covered with large bites and deep scratches.

Billy looks away. Angry. Saddened.

He notices the cocoons. All hatched.

Sounds echo from downstairs. Thumps. Giggles.

Billy's face goes white with fear. There's more.

He dashes out of the attic.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Billy walks slowly. Clutching his sword. Ready for an attack.

He descends the stairs.

FRONT HALLWAY

Billy walks to the living room.

A CREATURE

leaps from the overhead chandelier. It lands on Billy's back.

The creature tries to bite Billy's neck.

Billy slams his blade into Mogwai. He whacks the creature. Again and again.

Finally, Mogwai falls to the floor.

Billy brings down his blade. Hard.

It slices Mogwai's head off. The creature's body quivers. It dies.

Billy moves to the living room.

LIVING ROOM

Dimly lit. The fireplace burns. The Christmas tree lights flash.

Billy enters.

AN OBJECT

flies at Billy from across the room. He ducks.

A DINNER PLATE smashes against the wall behind him.

Billy looks to the

CHINA CABINET.

A CREATURE sits on the middle shelf. Giggling. It throws another plate at Billy.

He bats the plate away with his sword.

Mogwai continues to throw plates at him.

Billy dodges the plates, making his way to the China Cabinet.

There, he lunges forward with his sword. Bullseye. Mogwai is stabbed. Straight through the chest.

The creature screams, writhing in pain. It falls from the China shelf to the floor. Dead.

Billy slowly moves across the room. His eyes dart back and forth, looking for creatures.

He walks by the fireplace.

Three large RED VELVET STOCKINGS hang from the mantle. Each one is inscribed with a name: BILLY, RAND and LYNN.

A CREATURE

pops out of each stocking. Growling. Snarling.

Startled, Billy jumps back.

The three creatures hop to the floor and move towards Billy.

He clutches his sword. Tight.

Two creatures leap at him.

He spears one in mid-air.

He quickly spins around, knocking the other Mogwai to the ground. He stabs the creature in the throat. He twists the sword until Mogwai chokes to death on its own blood.

The remaining creature attaches itself to Billy's leg. It takes a bite from his calf.

Billy cries out in pain.

Mogwai stays on. Biting hard.

Billy kicks his leg near the fireplace.

Scared of the firelight, Mogwai lets go.

Billy stabs the creature. He holds Mogwai in the roaring flames of the fireplace. Mogwai screams until it burns to a crisp.

Billy removes his steaming sword.

The charred creature collapses into the flames. Dead.

Billy checks his leg. A small bite. Some bleeding.

He walks to the kitchen.

CAMERA PANS TO THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

Its tiny lights flash. THE CAMERA moves closer to the tree.

TWO LARGER GREEN EYES shine from inside the tree. The eyes of ANOTHER CREATURE.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Billy stands quietly in the doorway.

TWO CREATURES

are inside. They don't notice Billy.

One has crawled into the large blender. It laps up the leftover white icing.

The other sits on the table. It nibbles on the Santa cookies.

Billy looks at the blender. It's unplugged.

Billy moves quickly. He dashes across the room and plugs in the blender. It starts with a loud whirr.

The startled creature spins inside. Mogwai's screams die as it is chopped into a green mush.

The remaining creature growls at Billy.

Billy lunges forward with his sword.

Mogwai leaps out of the way, onto the kitchen cabinet.

Billy turns to the creature.

Mogwai stands in front of the open microwave oven.

Billy pokes at the creature with his sword.

Mogwai takes a few steps back.

Billy still pokes at Mogwai, forcing the creature into the oven.

Billy quickly closes the oven door.

Mogwai is trapped inside.

Billy flips the oven switch to "bake". The microwave purrs.

Inside, Mogwai screams and pounds against the glass door. Soon, the creature falls. Its body quivers. The armor-like skin bubbles and pops. Mogwai boils to death.

Billy wipes the sweat from his brow and exits the kitchen.

LIVING ROOM

Billy enters. He looks at the dead creatures. He sighs. Relieved. They're all gone.

Billy rests his sword against the wall. He picks up the telephone and dials "O".

BILLY
Yes, could you connect me with the Sherrif's office?...

A SWIFT SHADOW

moves across the floor, behind Billy.

BILLY
Hello?...Is this Sherrif Lucia?...

A CLAW

tears the phone cord from the wall.

BILLY
(disconnected)
Hello?...Hello?...

THE CREATURE

walks toward Billy, ready to attack from behind.

BILLY
(clicking the phone)
Hello?...

THE CREATURE

is nearly upon Billy. It hisses.

Billy turns. Face to face with Mogwai.

Billy glances to his sword. A few feet away. Against the wall.

Mogwai takes a step closer.

Billy reaches for the sword.

The creature leaps and lands on Billy's chest, knocking him to the floor.

Billy wrestles with the creature. He tries to grab the sword, but Mogwai is clawing and biting at him.

Billy's hand finally reaches the sword. He snatches it.

He brings down the blade, into the creature's arm.

Mogwai jumps back. Wounded. Green blood pours from its arm.

Billy stands. He raises his sword to finish off the creature.

Mogwai dodges the blade, jumping to the window ledge.

Billy moves toward the creature.

Mogwai smashes through the window, escaping into the night.

Billy hurries out of the house.

OUTSIDE

The blizzard is starting up.

Billy arrives at the broken window. He looks to the ground and sees

MOGWAI'S FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW.

They stretch across the backyards of suburbia, disappearing into the darkness.

Following the footprints, Billy runs after the creature.

PEGGY

a cute, blonde haired, blue eyed 8 year old, stands in her backyard. She is building a snowman.

PEGGY'S MOTHER

opens the back door of their home. She calls to her daughter.

MOTHER
Peggy! Come inside! It's too dark! You'll ruin your eyes building that snowman!

PEGGY
Just five more minutes. And "Skippy The Snowman" will be finished. Please, Mommy?

MOTHER
(sighs)
Alright, young lady. But if you're not inside this house in five minutes...

PEGGY
(smiles)
Thanks, Mommy.

She goes back inside.

Peggy inserts pebbles for "Skippy's" eyes.

CUT TO:

BILLY

running through the snow. Following Mogwai's footprints.

CUT TO:

PEGGY

inserting the final pebble for "Skippy's" smile.

Peggy takes a step back. She looks over her creation. She smiles.

PEGGY
Gee, Skippy...You look cute.

SUDDENLY

MOGWAI BURSTS OUT OF THE SNOWMAN'S CHEST.

Before Peggy can scream, Mogwai grabs her.

The creature pulls Peggy inside the snowman.

Peggy puts up a fight.But she isn't strong enough. Her little feet kick as she is pulled inside of the snowman.

BILLY

arrives in Peggy's backyard. He sees the young girl's legs kicking from the snowman's torso.

Billy rushes over. He grabs Peggy's legs. A tug of war.

Billy pulls Peggy out of the snowman.

Peggy brushes the snow from her face.

BILLY
Are you okay?

PEGGY
(unharmed, shaken)
A monster came out of Skippy the Snowman.

Billy quickly attacks the snowman with his sword.

He swings and swings until "Skippy" is nothing but a pile of snow.

But there is no sign of Mogwai.

Billy spots footprints leading away from the snowman.

Mogwai has escaped.

Billy runs after the footprints.

Peggy watches him disappear around the corner of the house.

Peggy's Mother opens the door. She is puzzled by the pile of snow in front of Peggy.

MOTHER
Peggy...What happened to your snowman?

PEGGY
(wide eyes)
This ugly little monster came out of Skippy's chest! It tried to pull me inside and eat me! But this man with a big sword came over and saved me!

Peggy's Mother just stares at her. She shakes her head.

MOTHER

I think you've been playing too many of those video games.

CUT TO:

CAROLERS.

A group of thrity high school students stand on the front lawn of a home. They happily belt out a Christmas Carol.

CAROLERS
"Joy To The World, the Lord has come..."

CAMERA PANS

their bright cheery faces.

PETE

stands in the back row, wearing his orange down jacket and a long checkered scarf. He stands in the back row, singing tenor.

THE CREATURE

pops out of a snow drift, behind the carolers. Mogwai eyes the kids. Pete stands closest to Mogwai.

The creature smiles.

CUT TO:

BILLY

running through the backyards, following Mogwai's footprints. The carolers' singing echoes in the distance.

CUT TO:

THE CAROLERS

loudly singing.

CAROLERS
"And heav'n and nature sing..."

A tenor voice suddenly drops out.

A few of the carolers exchange puzzled glances. But they resume their singing.

PETE

is being dragged from the group by his checkered scarf.

Mogwai pulls the youth into a nearby wooded area.

Pete kicks and shouts. But the caroler's singing drowns out his cries for help.

Mogwai jumps onto Pete's chest.

The creature's razor sharp teeth bite into the boy's neck, tearing out a huge chunk.

Pete screams.

No one hears.

CUT TO:

BILLY

running to the group of carolers.

They are puzzled by the sword in his hand, his tattered, bloody appearance. But they continue singing.

Billy follows the creatures' footprints behind the carolers, into the woods.

Several feet away, Billy sees Mogwai. The creature is on top of Pete's body.

Billy rushes to the scene.

Mogwai sees Billy. The creature gets scared and dashes off.

Billy stops at Pete's body. He looks down.

Pete is dead. Most of his face is eaten away. His shirt and jacket are off. His chest and stomach have been ripped open.

Billy covers Pete's body with his coat. Billy is angry. Sickened.

He quickly runs after the creature.

CUT TO:

TRACKING SHOT.

BILLY

chasing the creature through the snow covered woods.

MOGWAI

runs out of the wooded area, into the parking lot of

THE Y.M.C.A.

The building is deserted. Closed because of heavy snowfall.

Billy comes out of the woods and sees the creature ahead.

Mogwai runs to the building.

Billy follows.

Mogwai scales up the building's side, to the roof.

Billy runs up. Frustrated. He can't get to the roof.

He watches Mogwai climb into the building through a small chimney.

Billy runs to the front door. He tries to open it. Locked.

He notices a window, a few feet above him.

He hops to the window. He breaks the glass with his sword.

He opens the window and climbs inside.

CUT TO:

Y.M.C.A. HALLWAY

Billy jumps inside from the window. He looks around. It's dark in here.

Billy sees a closet marked "Janitor". He opens it. Inside, he finds a flashlight. He turns on the flashlight. It's bright.

At the end of the hallway, Billy sees a door that reads:

GYMNASIUM - SWIMMING POOL

The door is slightly open.

Billy walks to the door.

INT. GYMNASIUM

Divided into two sections. One side: A basketball court. The other: a swimming pool.

It's dark. Billy enters.

TWO GREEN EYES BURN

from the far side of the gym. Mogwai sits at the top of the stacked bleachers.

Billy doesn't see the creature. He shines his flashlight across the gym floor.

BILLY
I know you're here.

The flashlight stops on the gymnasium light box. The box is attached to a far wall, beside the swimming pool.

Billy walks to the box.

Mogwai dashes from the bleacher top.

Billy hears the creature move. He flashes his light to the bleacher tops. He sees nothing.

SUDDENLY

Something shoots at Billy's feet. He screams and shines his light to the floor.

A BASKETBALL

rolls to a stop at Billy's feet.

Mogwai's giggle echoes through the gymnasium.

Billy looks into the vast darkness.

BILLY
Come on out...you bastard...

It is silent again. Billy is frightened. He walks faster, moving to the light box.

Billy hears another sound. He shines the light to another area.

Again. Nothing.

Billy starts to tremble. He runs to the light box. He gets there and quickly flips open the box.

MOGWAI

leaps at Billy from inside the box.

Billy drops the flashlight and sword.

The creature's sharp fingernails dig into Billy's chest.

Billy falls backward, with Mogwai holding onto him.

They tumble into the swimming pool. The deep end.

THE WATER

Billy separates himself from the creature. He swims to the side of the pool and gets out.

He runs and picks up his sword. He looks at the scratches on his chest. They bleed. But he'll live.

SUDDENLY

A small rumbling sound echoes from the swimming pool.

Billy looks to the pool.

The water is moving. Bubbling. Rippling.

Billy is scared. He runs to the exit doorway.

The rumbling gets louder. The pool's water gets more violent.

Billy looks back to the pool.

A CREATURE

crawls out of the swimming pool.

It is followed by another creature.

They are followed by three more.

Then five more. Eight more. Ten more.

They keep coming. In droves.

BILLY

watches from the doorway.

BILLY
(shock)
Oh my God.

HUNDREDS OF CREATURES

are now coming out of the pool. The huge amount of water forces them to multiply at an incredibly fast rate.

BILLY

runs out of the gymnasium.

HALLWAY

Billy closes and locks the door.

He runs to the window, boosts himself up and crawls out.

EXT. Y.M.C.A.

Billy runs from the building.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION

SHERRIF FRANK LUCIA

sits behind his desk. He's laughing.

Frank is 40 years old. His hair is thick. Black. He wears glasses. His deputy

OFFICER BRENT

a scrawny, weasel-like man in his mid-thirties, stands beside the Sherrif. Brent is also laughing.

BILLY

sits in front of the two men. A serious, helpless look covers his face.

Frank leans toward Billy.

FRANK
(holding back a laugh)
Let me get this straight...You're telling me that "little monsters" are multiplying by the hundreds, down at the "Y"?

BILLY
Yes...that's right...

FRANK
These little things killed your Mother and the Fountane boy?

Billy nods.

FRANK
And they eat human flesh?

BILLY
(nods, displaying the bite on his calf)
They did this.

FRANK
(skeptical)
Looks like a dog.

BILLY
It wasn't a dog, sir.
(nervous)
Look...these things are deadly when they're alone...but if a couple hundred get loose... They'll be hungry. Real hungry. They'll head straight for the town...You'll have a major disaster on your hands.

Frank looks at Billy.

FRANK
Look, Billy...We all know that you have a very active imagination. My brother told me about the books you read down there at the bank...Now, Dungeons and Dragons are fine if you're five years old, but..

Billy stands. Upset.

BILLY
My Mother is dead. So is my friend. I am not imagining things.

Billy glares at Frank. The Sherrif sighs. He looks at Officer Brent.

FRANK
Brent, go with Peltzer...check out the "Y"... then his house.

BILLY
(not satisfied)
Sherrif...you should radio for more help... warn the people in town...

FRANK
(angry)
Listen Peltzer, now you're getting me pissed off. You're lucky I don't just throw you out on your ass for telling me stories.

Frustrated, Billy exits with Officer Brent.

Frank shakes his head. He picks up the phone and dials.

FRANK
Gary...Hi, it's Frank. You should come over to the Station house. You'll want to be here when they fit your buddy Peltzer for a straight jacket.

CUT TO:

EXT. Y.M.C.A.

The building appears calm. Peaceful. No sign of the creatures.

The police car pulls into the parking lot.

INT. POLICE CAR

Officer Brent parks the car. Billy sits beside him. Brent looks at the building.

BRENT
Looks fine. I don't see anything.

BILLY
They're inside.

Brent checks his pistol. It's loaded.

BILLY
Look...You can't go in there alone. It's suicide. You've got to radio for more help...

BRENT
(holds up the pistol)
I've got all the help I need.

Brent handcuffs Billy to the grating of the police car.

BILLY
(pleading)
Please...listen to me...You can't go in there...

Brent gets out of the car and walks to the building.

A nervous, frustrated Billy watches.

BRENT

walks to the building's front door. Locked. He smiles. He takes a step back, draws his gun and shoots off the door lock.

He enters.

BILLY

waits in the car. Frightened. Restless.

His sword lies on the back seat. Billy grabs it.

He begins to pound at the handcuff chain with his blade.

INT. Y.M.C.A. HALLWAY

Pistol drawn, Brent walks down the hallway, to the gym doors.

He can hear the sounds from inside. Gurgling. Breathing. Giggling.

He takes a drink from his hip flask. He enters the gym.

INSIDE

Brent is shocked by what he sees.

HUNDREDS OF PAIRS OF BURNING GREEN EYES

fill the gymnasium, shining in the darkness. Like a starry night.

DROVES OF MOGWAI

are still coming out of the swimming pool.

Brent is frozen. He tries to scream.

The creatures notice him. Several move towards him.

Brent fires his pistol. Useless. There are too many creatures.

BILLY.

He hears the gunshots. He moves faster, desperately hacking at the handcuff chain with his sword.

CUT TO:

INSIDE

BRENT

drops his gun. Out of bullets. He turns to run.

A creature leaps. It lands on his back.

Another leaps at him. He falls to the ground.

Brent screams as the creatures jump him.

They cover him like a blanket.

They feast.

CUT TO:

BILLY.

Sweating. Nervous. Hacking away at the handcuff chain.

Brent's screams fade in the backround.

Billy looks out the side window. He sees

THE Y.M.C.A.'S FRONT DOORS BURST OPEN.

Droves of creatures pour out into the night.

BILLY

panics. He hacks at the chain. Harder. Faster.

THE CREATURES

move toward the police car.

BILLY

finally breaks the handcuff chain. He quickly moves to the driver's seat and starts the car.

THE POLICE CAR

tears out of the parking lot.

The creatures still pour out of the "Y".

BILLY

drives. He looks to the rearview mirror. The reflection of

COUNTLESS GREEN EYES

burns in the mirror. The creatures are following him.

BILLY

drives faster.

BILLY
(panic)
I gotta warn people...I gotta tell them...

He flips on the police siren and heads for town.

CUT TO:

THE SUBURBS

Peaceful. Calm. Christmas lights twinkle.

THE POLICE CAR

suddenly squeals down the main road. Lights flashing. Siren blaring.

BILLY

steers the patrol car into the first driveway.

The car screeches to a stop. Billy gets out. Sword in hand, he runs to the front door of the house. He knocks. Hard.

MR. FUTTERS

a balding, middle aged man, wearing a bathrobe and pajamas, answers the door.

MR. FUTTERS
(puzzled)
Billy Peltzer?...What's going on here?...

BILLY
(breathless)
They're coming.

MR. FUTTERS
Huh?...

BILLY
(fast, hyper)
You've got to keep your windows locked. Or better yet...board them up! And your lights...You've got to leave them on!

MR. FUTTERS
What are you talking about, boy?

BILLY
There are these little things...animals... They're all over the place! They'll kill you and your family!...

Mr. Futters starts to laugh.

MR. FUTTERS
Have you been drinking?

BILLY
No sir, I...

MR. FUTTERS
And what the hell is that? A sword?

BILLY
Yes...I...

MR. FUTTERS
And what are you doing with the Sherrif's car? Are you on drugs?

Billy starts to explain when

MR. DEAGLE

the nextdoor neighbor, walks onto his porch.

Deagle is a portly man, with curly grey hair and a beard.

He calls to Mr. Futters.

MR. DEAGLE
Hey, Joe...I saw the police car. You in some kind of trouble?

MR. FUTTERS
No, it's this Peltzer kid. He thinks we're gonna get eaten up by wild animals. And he's carrying a sword.

MR. DEAGLE
Did you say "Peltzer"? Billy Peltzer?

MR. FUTTERS
Yeah...

MR. DEAGLE
(shakes his head)
He's a nut. Went crazy in the bank today. Called my wife all kinds of names.
(to Billy)
You smartass son of a bitch. If I was ten years younger I'd beat the crap out of you.

Billy sighs, frustrated.

MRS. DEAGLE

joins her husband on the porch.

MRS. DEAGLE
What's the matter?...
(she sees Billy)
Oh, it's you. Here to apolgize?

BILLY
No, M'am. I'm trying to save your life.

MRS. DEAGLE
What?...

MR. DEAGLE
The boy went crazy, dear. He's carrying a sword.

MRS. DEAGLE
(smiles)
I knew he was crazy from the start.
(glares at Billy)
I hope they lock you up for good, and throw away the key.

Mr. Deagle puts his arm around his wife.

MR. DEAGLE
C'mon back inside, dear. Let's finish watching "Dallas".
(to Mr. Futters)
G'night, Joe.

MR. FUTTERS
Good night, Ed.
(to Billy)
You've got ten seconds to get the hell out of my yard. Then I'm calling the Sherrif... if he isn't out looking for you already.

He slams the door and goes inside.

Billy just stands there. Defeated. Frustrated.

A CREATURE

hisses. Behind Billy.

Billy turns. Mogwai leaps at him.

Billy raises his sword and swings.

He knocks the creature down. He stabs Mogwai, slicing the creature from its neck to its belly.

Mogwai dies with a long scream.

Billy looks up and sees

THE PACK OF CREATURES

moving down Main Street. They have arrived. Looking for food.

Many break into the house across the street. There are some human screams. Then the house lights go out.

Several creatures come towards Billy.

Billy runs to the police car. He opens the door and gets inside.

A creature leaps at him.

Billy slams the car door. It severs the creature's hand.

Several creatures surround the car.

Billy hears a familiar voice. Screaming. He looks out the window.

MRS. DEAGLE

comes running out of her house, towards the police car. She's screaming for help.

A creature is on her back, biting into her throat.

Another creature leaps at her. It rips through her leg.

She falls. Into the snow.

Several creatures attack Mrs. Deagle. Her screams fade. So does her life.

BILLY

looks away. More creatures are surrounding the car. They pound against the windows. They want in.

A scared Billy flips on the police radio.

BILLY
Sherrif?...It's Billy Peltzer...Can you hear me?!?...

CUT TO:

INT. SHERRIF'S OFFICE

Frank plays cards with his brother, Gary. Gary is still in his bank security guard uniform.

Billy's voice crackles over the radio.

BILLY (V.O.)
Please answer! It's me, Billy...

Frank grabs the mic. Gary smiles.

FRANK
What's going on Peltzer? Where's Officer Brent?...

BILLY (V.O.)
He was killed by the creatures.

FRANK
What? Where are you?...

THE POLICE CAR

is blanketed by creatures, trying to get in at Billy. Billy screams into the radio mic.

BILLY
(panic, screaming into the radio mic)
The creatures are all over town...breaking into houses...killing people...You've got to get help!...

THE REAR WINDOW SMASHES.

The creatures start to rip away at the glass.

A creature's arm smashes through the passenger window.

Billy drops the radio mic.

SHERRIF (V.O.)
Peltzer?!?...Peltzer?!?...

Billy thinks fast. He flips on the siren and flashing roof lights.

THE CREATURES

are scared of the bright lights. They scatter away from the car.

BILLY

starts the engine. He squeals out of the driveway.

CUT TO:

INT. SHERRIF'S OFFICE

FRANK
(into the mic)
Peltzer?...Peltzer?...
(slams down the mic)
Damn.

GARY
(smiling)
Sounds like he really flipped out this time.

Frank stands. He straps on his gun holster.

FRANK
Looks like I'm gonna have to straighten this out myself. Want to go for a ride?

GARY
(eyes light)
Can I drive?

Frank reluctantly nods. Gary stands.

GARY
(sarcastic)
But, Frank...With everybody out...Who's gonna be here to answer the Emergency phone calls?
(falsetto)
"Help! The little gremlins are eating my baby!"

Gary laughs hard at his joke. They exit the police station.

CAMERA STAYS BEHIND

in the deserted police station. We hear Frank and Gary get into the car and drive off.

THEN

A telephone rings. And another phone rings. And another.

People need help.

CUT TO:

BILLY

Shaky. Nervous. Behind the wheel of the police car.

OUTSIDE

The creatures are making their way down Main Street.

They are everywhere.

On rooftops. Front lawns. Smashing through windows. Breaking into homes.

Scattered human screams echo through the night.

People are dying.

Mogwai is taking over the town.

BILLY

looks through his windshield. Up ahead, he sees

TRACY

screaming for help, from a third floor window of her home.

BILLY

steers the police car into her driveway. He squeals to a stop.

He grabs his sword and gets out of the car.

OUTSIDE

Billy runs to below Tracy's window. He shouts to her.

BILLY
Tracy!...It's me! Billy!

TRACY

stands in her bedroom. The bedroom door is closed. Locked. The creatures pound against it. They want in.

Tracy shouts down to Billy.

TRACY
Billy! These things are all over my house...
I'm trapped!
(a beat)
There's a ladder beside the garage...

Billy runs to the garage side. He reaches down and picks up a rusty aluminum ladder.

He puts the ladder up to Tracy's window and climbs to her.

INT. TRACY'S ROOM

THE BEDROOM DOOR BURSTS OPEN.

2 creatures stand there. Growling. Hungry. They move to Tracy.

She screams.

Billy gets to Tracy. He quickly pulls her out of the window. They begin to climb down the ladder.

ON THE GROUND BELOW

a creature jumps onto the ladder.

Tracy is startled. She nearly falls. Billy grabs a better hold of her. He drops his sword. It falls to the ground and lands in the snow.

The creature looks up and sees Billy and Tracy. A few feet above. Mogwai begins to climb the ladder, going after them.

Billy and Tracy start to climb up the ladder.

But the two other creatures come out of Tracy's bedroom window. They see Billy and Tracy below. They climb out after them, down the ladder.

Billy and Tracy are trapped. Sandwiched between the creatures.

Billy looks to his sword on the ground. So far away.

The creatures are almost upon them.

Thinking fast, Billy pulls the ladder back.

It sways. He pulls harder.

The ladder tilts to the ground. Falling.

The three creatures are thrown to the ground, into the deep snow.

Billy and Tracy ride the ladder down. The snow breaks their fall.

The creatures dig their way out of the snow. They move towards Billy and Tracy.

Billy snaps up his sword and jumps to his feet. Ready to fight. He keeps one protective arm around Tracy.

The creatures surround them. Waiting for the right moment to attack.

One of the creatures moves forward.

Another leaps behind Billy.

Billy lunges forward and spears the first creature.

He quickly reels around, slicing the other creature in two.

Both creatures lie in the snow. Bloody. Dead.

Billy turns to the last Mogwai.With two swings of his blade, he kills the creature.

Billy wipes the green blood off his sword with his coat sleeve. Breathless, he looks at Tracy.

Hair hangs in his eyes. Blood runs down the side of his sweaty, unshaven face. His dark brown eyes stare at Tracy. The transformation from meek bank clerk to sexy hero is complete.

BILLY
You're safe now.

He embraces her. They run to the police car and get inside.

INT. POLICE CAR

Billy starts the car. He and Tracy drive off into the night.

CUT TO:

INT. SHERRIF'S CAR

Gary drives. Frank sits beside him. Gary flips on the siren and lights. He smiles. Like a little kid. Frank reaches over and turns off the siren. Gary complains.

GARY
Hey, C'mon...

FRANK
I got a headache.

GARY
(sarcastic)
But this is an emergency. We gotta warn everybody! The gremlins are coming!

Gary laughs. Frank sighs.

GARY
So when are you gonna make me Deputy?

FRANK
When you grow up.

GARY
Why don't you fire Brent. He's nothin' but a drunk. I could do a lot better.

They arrive at the outskirts of town. Frank notices something up ahead.

He can see the shadows of the creatures. Crawling on houses. Running across the front lawns.

Frank motions for Gary to slow down.

FRANK
Something looks weird.
(rolls down his window)
Damn windshield's frozen. Can't see a thing.

He sticks his head out the window to look out.

Gary continues to drive.

Frank turns from outside, back to Gary.

FRANK
Snow's too heavy. I can't...

A CREATURE

leaps onto the car's passenger side. The creature grabs Frank's arm. He tries to shake off the creature.

Gary glances over. Shocked. Horrified.

Mogwai takes a huge bite out of Frank's arm. He screams.

Gary turns to help him.

THE POLICE CAR

slides on the ice. It slams into a guard rail, flips over a ditch and spins to a stop.

Mogwai has landed in the middle of the road. The creature sits there, nibbling at Frank's severed arm.

CUT TO:

BILLY'S CAR

Billy drives, as fast as possible through the heavy snow. He's headed out of town. Tracy sits beside him. She looks out the window.

OUTSIDE

The rows of once peaceful, cheerful homes are now the scenes of frenzied horror.

People run out into the night, screaming for help, only to be dragged to the ground by creatures.

Ravaged eaten bodies lie in the snow. Frozen.

An ambulance is overturned on the roadside.

Phone lines are torn down.

The creatures have made their way across town. They now attack the last few houses on the block.

TRACY

looks away from her window. Tears fill her eyes. She's sickened by all of it. Billy holds Tracy's hand, comforting her.

CUT TO:

MOGWAI

sitting in the middle of the road, gnawing on Frank's arm.

Billy's police car approaches in the distance. Moving fast.

Mogwai is too pre-occupied with its dinner.

The police car gets closer.

Mogwai feels the light on its back. The creature tries to jump out of the way.

Slam! The creature is hit. It is crushed beneath the wheels of the police car. The car screeches to a stop.

INSIDE

Billy looks at Tracy.

BILLY
You alright?

She nods. Billy looks back to the windshield.

OUTSIDE

The headlights shine on Frank's overturned police car. Gary is inside. Still alive. He screams for help.

TRACY

notices.

TRACY
(panic)
It's Gary.

Billy draws his sword.

BILLY
I'll get him out.

Billy quickly opens the police car door. He jumps out.

OUTSIDE

He closes the door. Tracy is safe inside.

Billy walks to the sherrif's car. He stays in the safety of the headlight's beam.

Billy stops a few feet from the sherrif's car.

The passenger side is crushed. The driver's side is barely damaged, save for a dented, jammed door.

Gary pounds against the door. He wants out.

Billy grabs the car handle. He pulls hard. The door pops open. He pulls Gary out.

Gary gets to his feet. He's okay. Billy looks inside the car.

Frank's bloody corpse is trapped in the wreckage.

Billy closes the door.

GARY
What about my brother? Can we get him out?

BILLY
He's dead.

Tears fill Gary's eyes. Billy leads Gary to the van.

BILLY
C'mon. Just stay in the light. They're afraid of the light.

Gary walks. He looks scared. Helpless.

They get to the police car. Billy opens the door.

INT. POLICE CAR

Gary gets inside. He sees Tracy. His eyes light.

GARY
Tracy.

She smiles. Glad to see him alive. They kiss. Gary puts his arm around her.

Billy hops into the driver's seat. He rests the sword beside him. He starts the van and continues his drive.

Gary gives Tracy another kiss. He needs her comfort.

Billy just stares ahead, at the snowy road.

CUT TO:

DOUGAL'S ANTIQUE STORE - ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN

Closed. But the upstairs lights are on. Someone is home.

Everything here looks calm. Untouched. Safe.

The police car pulls into the driveway.

INSIDE

Billy turns to Gary and Tracy.

BILLY
We're just outside of town...Doesn't look like the creature's got here yet.
(a beat)
Let's go inside and warm up.

They exit the police car.

OUTSIDE

The store's front lights come on.

DORRY

comes to the door. He sees the worn, hollow faces of Gary and Tracy. He sees the bruised and bloodied Billy.

DORRY
What the hell happened to you?

Billy looks at Dorry.

BILLY
We need help.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DOUGAL'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Dorry bandages Billy's calf.Gary sits with Tracy on the sofa.

Billy finishes telling the full story to everyone.

BILLY
...and they originate from this marketplace in Hong Kong.

Dorry stands and shakes his head.

DORRY
Hard to believe. Like Satan's come to walk the earth.

BILLY
(looks at everyone)
You see...they're drawn to water. Now, if my hunch is correct...They'll be leaving town, and heading for the water tower... which means they'll have to pass by here tonight.
(a beat)
We have to get help. These things have to be kept under control. If they get to the water tower...they could spread all over the State...maybe the Country.

GARY
Why didn't you think of that before, Peltzer?

BILLY
I did. But nobody would listen.

GARY
Maybe if you weren't such a nut, people would believe you.

Dorry intervenes.

DORRY
Now, boys...arguing won't get us anywhere.

Gary still glares at Billy.

GARY
This is <u>your</u> fault, Peltzer.

BILLY
That's not true.

GARY
My brother's dead because of you.

BILLY
That isn't...

GARY
The people in town. They're dead because of you.

BILLY
(angry)
Stop it.

GARY
<u>You</u> did it. <u>You</u> killed all those people You're a murderer, Peltzer.

Billy lunges at Gary. They fall to the ground. Fighting.

Dorry and Tracy break it up.

TRACY
If we want to stay alive...We have to stick together.

Billy turns away. Cooling off.

Gary is comforted by Tracy. But she keeps her eye on Billy. Dorry looks at everyone.

DORRY
We should get in touch with the authorities.

BILLY
Yeah, and then I'd like to try and get in touch with my Dad. If we can...

THE LIGHTS GO OUT.

Total darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. DORRY'S STORE

Mogwai's claw tears at the wires in the electrical box.

CUT TO:

LIVING ROOM

Gary's cigarette lighter illuminates the room. Everyone stays quiet. They listen.

THE GIGGLING of several creatures echoes from outside.

BILLY
They're here.

A frightened Gary holds Tracy.

GARY
Now what do we do?

The giggling gets louder. Closer. Billy turns to Dorry.

BILLY
Do you have a place without windows?...A place where we could be safe?

Dorry pauses to think.

DORRY
The storage room.

The sound of breaking glass is heard.

DORRY
(scared)
They're downstairs. In the store.

BILLY
(clutching his sword)
We have to hurry.

Dorry leads everyone out of the room.

INT. STORAGE ROOM

Large area. Crowded with antiques.

Dorry leads everyone inside. He closes and locks the door. He lights two candles.

BILLY
We'll stay here until daybreak.

Gary sits with Tracy on an old sofa.

Dorry sits beside them in an old rocking chair.

Billy pulls up an old wooden chair.

LOUD NOISES. CRASHES. BANGS. THUMPS. GIGGLES.

They echo from OFFSCREEN. The creatures rummage through the antique store.

CLOSE-UPS

Billy. Gary. Tracy. Dorry. Listening to the sounds. Frightened.

DORRY
Mischevous little devils, aren't they?

No one disagrees.

Tracy suddenly notices something. She cries out.

TRACY
(pointing to the door)
Billy!

SEVERAL CREATURES' CLAWS

scratch through the thin wood of the storage room door.

Thinking fast, Billy moves to a large
He turns to Gary.

BILLY
Help me with this.

Gary and Billy slide the cabinet in front of the door.

BILLY
That'll keep them out. We're safe now.

Billy sits back. The noises continue.

Dorry looks at everyone.

DORRY
I've only been this scared two other times in my life. Once, was when I got drafted. The other, was when I was six years old.
(everyone listens)
It was Christmas Eve. My sisters and I were decorating the tree with our Mother. We were singing carols...happy...excited... waiting for Dad to get home from work.
(a beat)
A few hours passed, and we started to worry. Dad wasn't home yet. My Mother called the office. They said he left.
(pause)
We called the police. They began a search. We stayed up all night...waiting. But he didn't come home. Christmas day went by like an Eternity. And still...nothing.
(pause)
After about a week...the police gave up. My Mother was close to a nervous breakdown... The rest of us weren't eating...we couldn't sleep...Everything was falling apart.
(pause)
It was snowing outside. The house was cold. I threw some logs on the fire...That's when I noticed the smell.
(a beat)
The firemen came. They broke through the chimney top. We were all waiting, expecting them to pull out some dead cat or bird... Instead, they pulled out my Father.
(pause)
He was dressed in a Santa Claus suit. He had been climbing down the chimney on Christmas Eve, his arms loaded with presents. He was going to surprise us.
(pause)
The coroner said that he lost his footing. He slipped and broke his neck. Died instantly. His body was lodged in the narrow chimney shaft.
(pause)
That's how I found out there was no Santa Claus.

Everyone has a chilled look on their faces. Dorry just stares.

Billy tands and clears his throat.

BILLY
Well...I think you should all try and get some sleep.
(a beat)
I'll watch the door.

Everyone agrees. Billy moves his chair in front of the door.

Dorry relaxes in his rocking chair.

Gary stretches out on the sofa, expecting Tracy to cuddle with him. Instead, she walks over to Billy.

TRACY
Billy...

He looks at her. She gives him a comforting smile.

TRACY
I just wanted to say thanks...I mean...If it wasn't for you, I don't know what any of us would have done.

Billy smiles.

TRACY
Is it okay if I sleep here? On the floor beside you?...I'd feel a lot safer.

Billy nods. Tracy moves a carpet next to Billy's chair. She lies on the carpet. She closes her eyes.

Gary watches from the sofa. Jealous.

Dorry has fallen asleep in his chair.

Billy sits. Sword on his lap. He guards the door.

Sounds still echo from downstairs, throughout the antique store.

CLOSE-UP

Billy. The horror of it all finally hits him.

His eyes fill with tears.

He cries. Alone.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

BILLY

sleeping in his chair. His hand still holds the sword on his lap.

The others are asleep.

Billy's hand quivers. The sword drops to the floor. He wakes. Startled. He quickly grabs the sword.

Everyone else wakes from the sound.

BILLY
(looking at their scared faces)
Everything's okay...I just dropped my sword.

Gary rubs his eyes.

GARY
What time is it?

DORRY
(checks his pocketwatch)
9:15.

Billy stands. He pushes the wood cabinet from the door.

The door is covered with scratches. Billy slowly opens it.

The room is bathed with light, coming from a window facing the door.

Everyone smiles. The light feels good. Safe.

They exit the storage room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Destroyed by the creatures. Furniture is overturned. Windows are broken. Curtains are torn.

Billy, Dorry, Gary and Tracy enter.

CAMERA FOLLOWS

the four people through the house. Into the kitchen, the bedrooms, the hallways.

Every room has been destroyed by the creatures.

INT. STORE AREA

All of the antiques have been smashed or broken by the creatures.

Dorry is shocked to see his store in this state.

Billy walks to the front door. He tries to open it. It's jammed. He pulls hard. Finally, it opens.

OUTSIDE

A blanket of snow covers everything. It snowed hard last night. Three feet's worth.

Billy turns to Dorry.

BILLY
Try the phone...see if we can get help...

Dorry walks back inside. Gary flips on a transistor radio that has been sitting on the shelf.

RADIO (O.S.)
All major highways and roads are closed. Driving is close to impossible. It looks like we're gonna be snowbound for the Holidays.

Dorry returns.

DORRY
Phone's dead.

BILLY
Damn.

TRACY
We're trapped.

GARY
I think we should get out. Now.

BILLY
How? The nearest town is fifteen miles away.

GARY
I'll walk.

BILLY
In this? You won't get far.

GARY
It's worth a try.

BILLY
And what happens when it gets dark?...And you're on the road. Alone.

Gary says nothing.

BILLY
No. We have to stick together and fight these things. At least until we can get help...

Tracy folds her arms.

TRACY
I'm cold.

Gary puts his arm around her. She'd rather have Billy's.

GARY
I'm hungry.

DORRY
There's a McDonald's about a block away.

BILLY
Okay. We'll get something to eat.
(a beat)
Then we go to work.

CUT TO:

EXT. MCDONALDS - LATER

The police car is parked outside. Many of the restaurant windows are broken. A few deserted cars are in the parking lot.

INSIDE

The creatures have been here.

The dead ravaged body of an old man is slumped across a table. A half eaten Big Mac is still in his hand.

In a booth, sits a dead family: Mother, Father, boy and girl. Their bodies are ravaged. Their food still sits in front of them. Untouched.

A dead cashier girl lies on the counter.

BILLY, TRACY, GARY AND DORRY

sit at a table in the rear of the restaurant. Away from the grisly sights.

They eat burgers and fries. Gary takes a bite of his burger and nods to Billy.

GARY
Not bad, Peltzer. I didn't know you could cook.

BILLY
I worked the grille here when I was 16. My first job.

Dorry looks at Billy.

DORRY
Could there be other people in town? Alive?

BILLY
It's possible. But it's more important to get at the creatures. We've got the advantage now. It's daylight.

GARY
You know where they are, Peltzer?

BILLY
No...But they're all gathered in one place. And the sun rose before they could make it to the water tower. So they must be holed up between here and there.

TRACY
The old church?

BILLY
(shakes his head)
Too many windows. Too much light. It's got to be someplace dark. Totally dark.

DORRY
How about somebody's garage?...Or tool shed?...

BILLY
No. There's too many of them. They'd need a huge area...

TRACY
Ridge's movie house.

Everyone pauses to think.

GARY
It's a big place. No windows.

DORRY
Always dark. Pitch black.

Billy nods to himself. That's the place.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIDGE'S MOVIE THEATER - LATE AFTERNOON

The sun is going down.

Walt Disney's "Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs" is playing. A written sign is posted in the box office window.

TONIGHT'S SHOW CANCELLED BECAUSE OF SNOW

Billy and the others walk up to the theater. Gary is carrying a flashlight. Billy turns to him.

BILLY
You used to work here, right?

GARY
(shrugs)
When I was a kid.

BILLY
You're coming in with me. You can show me around.

TRACY
What are you going to do if they're inside?

BILLY
Blow up the theater.

Everyone seems puzzled. Billy turns to Gary.

BILLY
This place has some kind of boiler room... with a furnace...right?

GARY
(nods)
In the basement.

BILLY
(to the others)

I'll use the gas lines as a bomb. The fire will destroy the creatures.

Dorry looks at Billy.

DORRY
I want to come in with you. You'll need the extra hand.

Billy agrees.

TRACY
Well I'm not staying out here alone. It's getting dark.

Billy nods. They'll all go in together.

BILLY
Okay...just remember...We've got to stick together. And keep close to the flashlight. They're scared of the light.

Everyone nods. Gary turns on the flashlight.

Tracy takes Billy's hand. Gary is jealous.

They enter the theater.

INT. THEATER LOBBY

Gary shines the flashlight.

The candy counter has been smashed. All of the candy is gone.

The popcorn machine is empty. The soda machine has been emptied and turned on its side.

Billy walks to the theater entrance door. He looks into the small window.

INT. THEATER

Countless pairs of green eyes shine in the darkness. The creatures murmur among themselves.

Billy whispers to the others.

BILLY
They're inside the theater.

The others peer into the window.

BILLY
(to Gary)
How do we get to the boiler room?

GARY
You have to go through the theater.

BILLY
Damn. There's too many of those things. They'll see us.
(pause)
If we could just distract them...

Tracy perks up.

TRACY
I have an idea.

They look at her.

CUT TO:

PROJECTION BOOTH

Billy, Tracy,Dorry and Gary enter. Tracy walks to the projector. She finds the forward switch. She flips it.

The projector purrs. The lamp goes on. The reels turn.

INT. THEATER

The second reel of "Snow White" fills the screen.

The seven dwarfs are singing "Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, it's off to work we go..." The song echoes through the theater.

THE CREATURES

are frightened by the images on screen. The light hurts their eyes. But gradually, they become interested in the movie.

PROJECTION BOOTH

Tracy smiles at the others.

CUT TO:

INT. THEATER

The creatures are clustered in their seats. Puzzled. Fascinated by the animated screen.

Billy and the others move through the darkness. They crawl on the floor, on the outside aisle of the theater, to the Exit door.

They move carefully. Slowly. Silently. They make it to the Exit. They crawl out. Safe.

The creatures still watch the movie.

INT. HALLWAY

Out of the theater, Billy, Tracy, Dorry and Gary run to the boiler room.

INT. BOILER ROOM

Billy walks to the large gas furnace. He examines the gas line. He finds the shut-off valve and turns off the gas.

Billy takes off his coat and shirt. He removes his T-shirt. He looks at Gary.

BILLY
Give me your T-shirt.

Gary reluctantly takes off his T-shirt. Billy ties the two shirts together. He winds them into a cord.

He finds a connection in the gas line. He begins to pound against it with the handle of his sword. The sounds of metal on metal ring out.

CLANG. CLANG. CLANG.

CUT TO:

INT. THEATER

The film's reel ends. The screen goes blank.

The creatures are puzzled. Distracted. They throw their candy boxes and paper cups at the screen.

The CLANG of Billy's sword hitting the pipe is heard.

Several of the creatures group together. They move from their seats, to the exit door. They follow the sound.

INT. BOILER ROOM

Billy gives one final hit to the gas line. The connection snaps. He stuffs the line with his and Gary's shirt. He turns the gas back on and lights the end of the crumpled shirt with a match. The flame slowly creeps up the shirt, to the line.

BILLY
We have to get out. Fast.

Gary points to a rear exit.

GARY
That leads outside.

SEVERAL CREATURES

burst into the room.

Gary panics. He pulls out a gun and starts shooting.

BILLY
Not your gun. There's too many. Use the light.

Gary stops shooting and fumbles for his flashlight.

A creature leaps at Dorry, pinning the old man to the ground. Other creatures attack Dorry. Biting. Scratching. Tearing.

Billy picks up his sword and begins to knock the creatures off Dorry.

Creatures come at Tracy. She picks up a section of thick lead pipe and bats off the oncoming Mogwai.

Gary finally turns on the flashlight beam. It keeps some of the Mogwai at bay.

Fire creeps up the T-shirt, getting closer to the gas line.

Billy gets all of the creatures off Dorry.

More creatures come through the door.

Gary gets scared. He drops the flashlight and runs for the rear exit.

BILLY
(screams to Gary)
Get back here! We need you!

Gary runs out, leaving the others alone.

Billy and Tracy continue to fight the creatures.

Dorry lies on the ground.

EXT. BEHIND THEATER

Gary rushes out. It's dark. He runs through the snow filled alley, to the front of the theater.

INT. BOILER ROOM

The fire is only a few inches from the gas line. Soon the place will blow.

Billy and Tracy still fight. Billy inches back to the rear exit. His arm blindly gropes for the door handle.

The fire is almost at the gas line.

Billy's hand reaches the door handle. He opens it.

He turns to Tracy.

BILLY
Let's go.

Billy picks up Dorry's body. Tracy protects him by batting away any oncoming creatures.

They hurry out of the boiler room.

INT. HALLWAY

Tracy closes the boiler room door, locking the creatures inside.

Billy carries Dorry's body. He and Tracy run to the exit.

EXT. ALLEY - BEHIND THEATER

Tracy and Billy burst through the door. They fall into a snow pile.

THE THEATER EXPLODES.

Doors fly off. Windows break. The entire theater is engulfed in flames.

Loud high pitched screaming is heard. Creatures are dying.

Billy stands up from the snow drift. He looks at Tracy. She's okay. They look to Dorry.

His body is covered with scratches and bites. His throat is ripped open. He's dead.

Billy picks up Dorry's body. He carries it to the front of the theater. Tracy follows.

CUT TO:

INT. THEATER

TRACKING SHOT

Camera moves through the flames. Some creatures scream. Burning to death. Others try to avoid the flames.

Camera moves to the ceiling.

THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM TURNS ON.

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP

Gary. Sweating. Scared. Out of breath.

He stands across the street from the theater. Watching.

BILLY AND TRACY

emerge from behind the building. They walk towards Gary.

Billy walks up. He's holding Dorry's body. He lowers the body to the ground. He glares at Gary.

BILLY
You bastard. You ran out on us. Left us alone. To die.

Billy drops his sword and jumps Gary. They fall to the ground. Fighting. Punching.

Gary knees Billy in the groin. Billy is bent over, catching his wind.

Gary snatches the sword. He lunges at Billy with the blade.

TRACY
Gary!...No!...

Billy dodges the blade.

Gary moves closer to Billy. The sword is inches away from Billy's chest.

Gary swings. Billy steps back. The tip of the sword scratches across his chest.

Tracy cries out.

Gary lunges at him again. Billy is scratched across the stomach.

Billy is backed against a building wall. Blood runs down his chest.

Gary pulls back his sword, ready to spear Billy.

A CREATURE

leaps out of the darkness and grabs Gary by the throat.

Gary screams. He drops the sword.

Another creature attacks Gary. Followed by another. And another.

They bring him to the ground. They eat. He dies.

Billy quickly picks up his sword, before the creatures get to him and Tracy. He grabs her hand. They run to the police car.

They get inside and lock the doors.

INT. POLICE CAR

Billy and Tracy look across the street.

COUNTLESS CREATURES

are pouring out of the theater. Into the night.

THE POLICE CAR

squeals away into the night.

INT. CAR

Tracy examines Billy's shoulder. A deep cut.

THE CREATURE ON THE BACK SEAT

opens its eyes. It lets out a high pitched, wounded cry.

Tracy picks up the sword, ready to kill the creature.

Billy stops her.

BILLY

Wait...

He looks out the rear window.

THE PACK OF CREATURES

are following the police car.

BILLY

looks at the creature on the back seat. It still cries out in that high pitched scream.

BILLY
(to Tracy)
Hear that? He's calling his friends for help. They're following us. As long as he's alive and screaming...they'll come after him.

TRACY
So?...

BILLY
We can't kill him. He's our bait. We'll be able to lead them away from the water tower.
(points to the back seat)
Just keep an eye on the thing...make sure it doesn't hurt us.

Tracy keeps the sword on the creature. Billy guns the engine and screeches off. He looks to the rearview mirror.

THE COUNTLESS GREEN EYES FOLLOW.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. EXXON STATION - LATER THAT NIGHT

The station is deserted. A clock in the window reads 5:27 AM.

THE POLICE CAR

pulls into the station lot.

Billy and Tracy get out. They look tired. Worn. They've been driving all night. Billy pumps gas into the car.

THE WOUNDED CREATURE

still lies on the back seat. Mogwai still screams in its high pitched wail.

TRACY

looks into the distance.

THE PACK OF GREEN EYES

is visible. A few miles away. They move to Tracy and Billy's direction.

TRACY
They're still coming.

Billy replaces the gas pump. He looks to the sky.

BILLY
The sun will be up in about an hour.
(a beat)
I have an idea...if we can pull it off, we might be able to finish these things off. Once and for all.

Tracy points to the back seat of the police car.

TRACY
Billy...look.

THE WOUNDED CREATURE

is up on its feet. Moving around.

BILLY

rushes into the gas station garage. He finds a small red metal tool box. He empties it and carries the box back to the car.

INT. POLICE CAR

Billy jumps into the back seat.

The creature is still wounded. Dazed. But it growls at Billy.

Billy grabs the creature. Mogwai bites and scratches at him. Billy forces Mogwai inside the tool box.

Billy closes the box. He locks it shut.

Mogwai is trapped inside. The creature pounds against the metal. Its loud cry still echoes from inside.

Billy moves into the front seat. Tracy joins him. They drive off.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILLER'S FLORIST SHOP

A huge Greenhouse. It sits in a large, open area, at the top of a hill. It overlooks the entire town of Kingston Falls.

The police car pulls into the parking lot.

Billy and Tracy get out. He's carrying the tool box. Mogwai still cries from inside.

Tracy and Billy enter the Greenhouse.

INSIDE

Billy rests the box on top of a table.

Tracy watches.

Billy makes sure that the Greenhouse doors are wide open.

He looks to the sky. It'll be daylight soon. He grabs Tracy's hand.

BILLY
Come on. We don't have much time.

They dash out of the building.

EXT. GREENHOUSE

Mogwai's loud cry echoes through the air.

EXT. TREE ABOVE GREENHOUSE

Billy and Tracy have climbed here. A safe hideaway.

The tree stands tall, curving above the greenhouse. Billy and Tracy sit on one of the branches. They're about 10 feet from the Greenhouse roof. They have a birdseye view of the entire inside of the Greenhouse.

Billy looks into the distance.

THE PACK OF CREATURES

are visible. They're coming.

BILLY

turns to Tracy.

BILLY
By the time they arrive, the sun will be coming up. There isn't a house for miles. No buildings. Nothing. They'll be trapped. Outside. The sunlight will kill them.

Tracy looks at Billy. She touches his hand.

TRACY
When this is all over, I'm going to take nice long vacation.

BILLY
What have you got in mind?

TRACY
Paris. I hear it's beautiful in the winter.

BILLY
(smiles)
Need some company?

TRACY
I'd love it.

They look into each other's eyes. They kiss.

GROWLING. HISSING. GIGGLING. FADES IN FROM THE DISTANCE.

THE CREATURES ARE CLOSE.

Billy looks to the ground.

The horde of green eyes shine, moving to the Greenhouse.

A hopeful look covers Billy and Tracy's face.

The creatures get closer...closer...

There are hundreds.

They enter the Greenhouse.

INSIDE

The creatures surround the tool box. Mogwai screams from inside.

Others tear through the Greenhouse, smashing plants, overturning tables, etc.

Billy looks to the sky. Dawn is approaching.

Tracy gives Billy another kiss. She inches closer, to cuddle.

Tracy's foot slips on the tree branch.

She loses her balance.

Billy raches for her.

She falls, slipping through Billy's arms.

BILLY
No!!!...

Tracy smashes through the top of the Greenhouse, into the den of creatures.

Billy jumps in after her. Sword in hand.

INT. GREENHOUSE

Billy smacks to the floor. Slightly dazed.

Tracy lies beside him. Unconscious.

A few creatures jump on her.

Billy stands. He knocks the creatures off Tracy.

Several creatures attack him.

Billy fights. But there are too many.

They keep coming. Surrounding him.

Billy can't keep up with them.

OUTSIDE

The sun is coming up. The darkness fades.

INSIDE

The creatures still attack.

Billy tries to fight.

A creature grabs his wounded leg.

Billy cries out in pain.

Another creature rips at his arm.

Billy drops the sword.

He's finished.

He falls to the ground. Beside Tracy.

The hungry creatures surround Billy.

Weak. Defeated. Billy closes his eyes.

He finally gives up.

THE SUN RISES.

The creatures move to finish off Billy...

Suddenly, they stop. They become weak.

Bright sunlight shines into the Greenhouse.

The creatures try to run. Nowhere to hide.

Billy opens his eyes. He watches.

The sun shines brighter.

Sweat pours from the creatures' bodies.

They cry out in pain. Unearthly screams.

Their bodies start to smolder.

Cracks appear in their skin.

The creatures begin to melt. Like candles.

Billy watches in horror.

Their bodies collapse to the floor.

They become mounds of unrecognizable liquid.

Their screams fade. Die out.

Billy gets to his feet. He looks around.

All that remains are pools of smoldering liquid.

The nightmare is over. Mogwai is dead.

Billy takes a breath.

Cuts. Bites. Scratches. They cover his body.

He looks down at Tracy.

Billy kneels, resting her head and shoulders in his lap.

She's dead.

Tears fill Billy's eyes.

He holds her tight.

He lightly kisses her on the lips.

Carefully, he rests her body back on the ground.

He picks up his sword and walks out of the Greenhouse.

OUTSIDE

Billy stands in the snow. He looks out over Kingston Falls. Now a ghost town.

He looks at his sword.

The blade is chipped, bloody, tarnished.

Billy grabs it by the handle.

He pulls back and throws the sword.

It flips through the air.

It lands. Several feet away. Speared upright. In the snow.

Billy collapses to the ground. Exhausted.

CLOSE-UP

Billy's face. Lying in the snow. Unconscious.

Hard. Lonely. Worn.

The face of a warrior. The face of a hero.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE-UP:

RAND PELTZER.

A pensive, tired look covers his face.

CAMERA PULLS BACK.

We're inside of a hospital room. Rand sits in a chair, across the room from

BILLY.

He lies in bed. His wounds are bandaged. An I.V. needle is in his arm.

Billy opens his eyes. They focus in on Rand.

BILLY
Dad...

Rand smiles. He embraces his son.

RAND
(comforting)
It's okay, Billy...It's over...

Billy holds his Father tightly. He rests his head on Rand's shoulder.

SUDDENLY

Billy's head pops up. His eyes are wide. Hysterical. A shocked expression covers his face.

BILLY
Oh my God! No!...No!...

RAND
Billy?...What is it?...

BILLY
The tool box! It's locked! I didn't open it!...It's dark inside!...

RAND
What?...

Billy jumps out of bed. He tears the I.V. out of his arm. He opens the closet and starts to get dressed.

Rand quickly buzzes the nurse.

2 NURSES AND A DOCTOR

hurry into the room. They grab Billy and wrestle him back to bed. The doctor gives Billy a shot.

BILLY
(fighting, screaming)
Wait!...You've got to let me go!...I didn't open the tool box!...I didn't get the...

Billy's words begin to mush together. His eyelids get heavy. He falls to sleep.

The Doctor turns to Rand.

DOCTOR
He'll be okay. He's still in shock... exhausted. He needs more rest.

Rand nods. The nurses and Doctor exit.

Rand just stares at Billy.

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP:

THE RED METAL TOOL BOX.

Still locked. Still sitting on the Greenhouse table, where Billy left it.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL

SEVERAL WORKERS

cleaning up the debris, repairing the broken Greenhouse windows.

The workers load the trash onto a dump truck.

Outside, the snow is melting. The sun shines bright.

A BURLY, MUSCULAR WORKER

walks up to the table and picks up the tool box. He shouts to another worker.

WORKER
Hey, Eddie...What should I do with this?

ANOTHER WORKER
Throw it out...with the other trash.

The worker is ready to throw it out. He examines the tool box. Fairly new. In good condition. He decides to keep it.

He walks to his van and rests the tool box on the front passenger seat.

CUT TO:

THE WORKER

driving home in his van. Later that afternoon. The radio plays a Country tune.

THE TOOL BOX

rests on the seat beside him.

SUDDENLY

the tool box begins to shake. Something pounds against it from inside.

THE WORKER

pulls his van to the roadside. He stares at the shaking tool box. His eyes are wide. Scared.

The worker grabs the tool box. He gets out of his van.

OUTSIDE

The tool box shakes and rattles in the worker's hand. Frightened, he throws the box over a hilly, wooded area at the side of the road.

THE TOOL BOX

tumbles down a steep hill.

It lands at the bottom and bounces into a

LAKE.

The tool box stays afloat for a few seconds. Then it slowly sinks into the lake water.

INT. WATER

The tool box sinks to the bottom of the lake.

MOGWAI'S GIGGLE

fills the soundtrack.

CREDITS ROLL.

THE END.